

Mr Begin flying to Christmas Day meeting in Egypt

Mr Begin and President Sadat are to meet on the Suez Canal on Christmas Day to continue their initiative for a Middle-East peace. The Israeli Prime Minister, who has been discussing his peace terms with President Carter, is interrupting his

Stopover for talks at Chequers

From Edward Mortimer
Cairo, Dec 19

Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, is to visit Egypt on Christmas Day, it was announced today.

He is to land at Abu-Sweir airport near the Suez canal and will be taken from there by helicopter to Ismailia where President Sadat will entertain him to lunch, presumably at his rest-house on the Nile des Chevaliers in the canal.

Mr Sadat has spent most of his free time this autumn at the Ismailia rest-house, and flew there again today after seeing Mr Hermann Eilts, the American Ambassador to Egypt, who gave him a message from President Carter.

It is assumed that this conference will be a peace plan, which Mr Begin discussed at night with Mr Carter in Washington before revealing the main lines of it on American television yesterday.

The peace plan will, of course, be at the centre of the discussions at the meeting. Mr Begin is coming on Sunday, it is taken as a sign that Mr Sadat is accepting the plan as a basis for discussion, if not a decision.

Egypt has so far refrained from any official comment on the plan. Officials will only say that the proposals have not yet been received. But Dr Esmat Abdel Meguid, leader of the Egyptian delegation to the Cairo preparatory conference, gave a warning today that there could be no peace agreement which did not include full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The fact that Mr Begin's journey home today for talks with Mr Callaghan at Chequers. In Cairo, Mr Heikal, the former Information Minister, told "The Times" that Mr Sadat risked making "a cardboard peace" without general Arab consent.

plan, apparently envisages Israeli troops remaining in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza strip indefinitely but been the main focus of criticism of the plan—official in Egypt, but official in other parts of the Arab world, including Jordan.

Mr Begin and President Sadat are to give a joint press conference at the end of their talks, the announcement said. It makes no mention of Mr Begin spending the night in Egypt.

Mr Sadat himself said on Saturday that it would be a "working visit" and "rather short". As opposed to the occasion when Mr Begin could expect a popular welcome comparable to the one he himself received when he visited Israel last month. That is evidently being reserved until there is further progress towards a peace agreement.

The Cairo preparatory conference meanwhile is clearly marking time. Its meeting today lasted less than an hour, long enough to approve the programme made by the legal committee (composed of two Egyptians and one Israeli) on procedural questions, and to instruct it to carry on and report to another full meeting on Wednesday.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Begin is breaking his journey home after his talks in Washington to visit Mr Callaghan. He arrives at Heathrow this morning and will go on by helicopter to Chequers, where he stayed on his official visit a fortnight ago.

An unusual feature of this meeting is that, at Mr Begin's request, President Giscard d'Estaing is sending to Chequers a special envoy, M Jean-François Ponce, secretary-general of the Elysée private office.

Mr Begin evidently wants to keep the French Government fully informed of his plans, and Mr Callaghan suggested it would be easier if a French representative came over to Chequers. Accordingly, Mr Begin will see M Ponce separately, after his talks with the Prime Minister.

Mr Begin's readiness to come to London, despite all his other commitments and the extra physical effort involved, shows that he is not merely a statesman but also a man of action. He is also making a gesture towards Paris, where enthusiasm for his attempts to negotiate a settlement has been somewhat less marked.

Reports from Washington suggest that President Carter's approval of Mr Begin's latest visit is not total, though they are felt to be in the right direction. The feeling is that in order to satisfy Saudi Arabia and Jordan, the Israeli Government may have to go further than it has indicated up to now.

Britain has no direct role in this negotiating process. But Mr Callaghan, having established cordial relations with Mr Begin, is in a good position to lend a sympathetic ear and offer, if the opportunity arises, constructive support.

Begin supporters surprised and US baffled, page 4

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Saudis are confident of oil price freeze

No increase in oil prices will be made by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), now meeting in Caracas, according to Shalika Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister. But he predicts that the western world must expect the price of oil in 10 years time to be much higher than it is today.

In an exclusive interview with Hans Baumann, published today by the four European newspapers, *The Times*, *Le Monde*, *La Stampa* and *Die Welt*, Shalika Yamani sets out his views on energy policy with clarity and candour.

Question: You, Excellency, are considered by the Western world to be the man who understands our economic problems and who, in consequence, argues for a policy of reasonable oil prices. Can the industrial nations proceed on the assumption that you will also assume this attitude at the Opec conference in Caracas on December 20?

Answer: Yes, our attitude will be based on our concern with the Western economy and therefore we shall ask for a freeze in the oil prices for 1978.

Q: Can you roughly tell us by how much the oil price will be increased in Caracas and what the Western world can expect?

A: There will be no increase. Q: Do you believe that an increase in oil prices ranging to 15 per cent (which is the average inflation rate in the Western countries) could be borne by the oil consumer countries?

A: There will be no increase. Q: Does the slackness of the world economy actually permit an increase in oil prices perhaps from January 1, 1978, or do you see the danger of certain Opec countries stimulating sales by concealed price reductions which, as a consequence, would quickly absorb the price increase?

A: In the present marketing situation, there is a slight surplus in the method of sales. We certainly recognize this fact. Q: Do you think it is possible that the different prices will be agreed upon, so that the rich industrial nations will have to pay more in favour of the poorer developing countries?

A: We always insist on a single price for everybody and then try to distribute it fairly through loans and financial assistance. Q: The price of Gulf oil has risen around \$12.50 (\$5.11) mark per barrel.

A: There will be no increase in the oil prices in 1980 and a strong increase in 1980. However, the level of prices in those intervals will depend on various factors such as:

(a) The success of the conservation; (b) The status of the world economy; (c) To what extent other sources of energy could be utilized; (d) The number of new oil fields discovered by that time; (e) The level of production in Saudi Arabia.

Q: Carrels are only maintainable when the offered goods are well under control and therefore in the position to be supplied by demand. But at present the world has an energy surplus. Don't you think that the existence of Opec will be endangered by this?

Meanwhile Egypt was no longer on speaking terms with the "Reactionist" Arab states and I don't think we are in a fruitful communication with the "Supporters".

Mr Heikal said he felt a better approach would have been himself a strong supporter

of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and that he did not necessarily oppose President Sadat's visit to Israel as such, if it was seen as a "challenge of peace thrown in the Israeli courtyard".

E. J. he said, "this was turned into a state visit, and then the visit got the dynamics of normalisation. . . . The Cairo conference came after that to consolidate this process. The official reaction might be to go further than consolidating in the press, he said, "and I don't mind this being put".

The alternative was to be silent completely, "which is degrading". He added: "Either you keep silent or you try to say a constructive word and make the world witness to what you say".

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A survivor from the Swiss airliner that crashed off Madeira on Sunday is carried into hospital in Funchal. Report, page 4.

Earnings rise higher than 10pc guideline

By David Blake,
Economics Correspondent

Government hopes of holding the increase in earnings to 10 per cent were dealt a blow yesterday by figures from the Department of Employment.

This was in spite of the fact that many workers held back the hope of obtaining bigger rises as the trend of settlements becomes clearer. The October figures must be treated cautiously, but they show a bigger rise than expected.

Even more disturbing for the Government is the fact that of the 700,000 or so workers whose settlements have been notified to the Government, no more than 10 per cent have accepted an offer worth just over 10 per cent, means that over 15 per cent of all workers have accepted an offer compared with 30 per cent by this time last year (Report, page 2).

Since relatively few formal settlements were notified during October, there must have been a significant increase in

of Employment seem to be interpreting settlements of less than 10 per cent as being within the guidelines.

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However, this gives an excessively favourable impression of the success which the Government is having in holding to its guidelines.

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Cabinet-TUC accord on wealth tax move in the next Parliament

By Paul Routledge,
Labour Editor

Cabinet ministers agreed with trade union leaders yesterday on a legislative programme to introduce a £500m a year wealth tax after the adoption of a feasibility study on getting extra revenue from the rich.

Mr Callaghan was present at a meeting of the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee, which unanimously adopted a confidential policy paper proposing that "work should be set in hand immediately on a White Paper and draft clauses with the clear intention to legislate in the first session of a new Parliament".

Cabinet ministers present at the talks at Transport House, concurred with the document's argument. The Prime Minister is understood to have said that a wealth tax would go a long way towards redressing the tax system in favour of those who have to work for a living.

Mr Barnett, chief secretary to the Treasury, introduced the paper, which was drawn up by a joint working party of trade unionists and politicians. He said a White Paper should appear as soon as possible, and intimated that if a general election intervened the wealth tax would resurface in detailed form in Labour's manifesto.

The document now goes forward for formal endorsement by Labour's national executive committee and the TUC General Council tomorrow. It proposes a tax of 1 per cent a year on wealth starting at a threshold of £100,000 and rising by stages to 5 per cent on assets exceeding £500,000.

It recognizes that some wealthy people will have to dispose of part of their estates to pay taxes. The money produced should be used to expand public spending on the social services and education, and in industry through the National Enterprise Board.

The document opens by saying: "A comprehensive capital tax imposed in addition to other taxes many more national treasures would have to be sold.

arising from the heavy concentration of wealth ownership in the hands of a small number of wealthy individuals and families."

The working party believes that an annual wealth tax could become "an important and permanent feature" of the United Kingdom tax system. It defines wealth as "marketable assets", thereby excluding pension rights.

By adopting a high initial threshold, Labour's policymakers believe they will exclude most owner-occupiers, even if they own their homes outright and have some other forms of wealth.

The document recommends that the wealth of the husband, wife and children should be aggregated for the purpose of the tax. But the tax "ought not to damage productive enterprise or public enjoyment of works of art such as paintings, or buildings commonly described as part of the national heritage".

A concession is proposed for small businesses, where it is suggested that relief of up to half in valuation for the wealth tax, similar to that allowed for capital transfer tax, should be given. Working farms would also be included in that concession.

Owners of country houses would be liable for the wealth tax, but could gain full relief if they agreed to reasonable public access.

Our Political Correspondent writes: Labour left-wingers will view sceptically the reaffirmation of the commitment to a wealth tax. The October 1974 manifesto stated unambiguously: "The next Labour government will introduce an annual tax on wealth above £100,000". But, once in office, Labour has lost heart.

The Conservatives have said that the level of taxation is so harsh that the nation's heritage is threatened. If a wealth tax is imposed in addition to other taxes many more national treasures would have to be sold.

What is clear, however, is that the "income tax" is coming under most severe strain in relatively profitable industries, with less prosperous or less unionized activities such as retailing having slightly lower settlements.

There may also be some success in holding the line on public sector pay.

For the second month running, the Department of Employment has published two indicators of the way in which average earnings are moving. The older one, which provides the best guide at the moment to the way in which earnings are changing over the short-term, has risen by 9.5 per cent in the year to October; the new series, which covers 10 million workers instead of the six million covered by the old series, has risen by 8.7 per cent.

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Mr Heikal sees trouble in pact without Arab consent Warning of 'cardboard peace'

From Our Own Correspondent
Cairo, Dec 19

Fears of a deep and lasting rift between Egypt and the rest of the Arab world were expressed today by Mr Muhammad Hassanin Heikal, the former editor of *Al-Ahram* and co-founder of the late Nasser.

He said the fact that peace accords in these circumstances would be "a weak fabric, a cardboard peace".

Mr Heikal was close to President Sadat in the early years of his presidency but after the 1973 war, he expressed disagreement with the strategy of relying exclusively on American mediation in the conflict with Israel and accepting interim bilateral agreements instead of a global and permanent solution to the conflict.

As a result he was dismissed

from the editorship of *Al-Ahram* early in 1974 and has since been able to express his views only in newspapers outside Egypt.

In giving an interview to *The Times* today, Mr Heikal said he knew this would provoke a further campaign against him. "After the second day I will be accused of being an agent of Moscow", he said. "The official reaction might be to go further than consolidating in the press, he said, "and I don't mind this being put".

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Guerrillas carry out daring night attack on big Rhodesian military base

Salisbury, Dec. 19.—Black-attack began at about 10.45 pm on Saturday, about five minutes after the start of a mortar attack from Zambia.

Several lorries were destroyed by the attack force of about 60 guerrillas, informed sources said. AP and UPI.

The Military Command said last night that one black soldier was killed and six white soldiers injured in a rocket, mortar, and small-arms attack on the Grand Reef Air Force base on Saturday night.

The communiqué said: "Minor damage was caused to Security Force buildings, and in follow-up operations large quantities of terrorist arms and equipment were seized."

Military sources said the

of the Rhodesian guerrilla movement was attacked with small arms, rockets and explosives early today, but there were no casualties and damage was light.

A spokesman at the headquarters which is situated in a residential area of Lusaka, blamed Rhodesia for the attack. Lusaka is about 60 miles from the Rhodesian border. —Reuters.

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Ban lifted on TV film of sugar workers

By a Staff Reporter

A High Court injunction restraining ATV from showing a documentary film featuring a strike by South African sugar estate was lifted yesterday after a private hearing before Mr Roy Beldam, QC, a deputy judge.

Tate and Lyle, the sugar refiners, were granted the injunction last Wednesday, only hours before the film was due to be shown.

Tate and Lyle said last night that it would not appeal. A representative added: "If the programme is broadcast in its present form on Wednesday night we propose to issue proceedings for damages for libel forthwith."

The communiqué came after a "frontline" summit yesterday in Beira, attended by the leaders of Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia and Angola, as well as the nationalist leaders, Mr Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe of the Patriotic Front.

The communiqué indicated the concern of the frontline states to see the transfer of power in Rhodesia achieved through negotiations with Britain. —Agence France-Presse.

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Ulster sees a lessening of terrorism

Official figures show that most forms of terrorist violence in Northern Ireland this year have been at the lowest level since 1970. Army casualties, with 15 soldiers killed, are one of the few categories to rise during the past 12 months. Violent deaths so far this year total 111, compared with 296 last year and 452 in 1976. Explosions total 339, compared with 766 last year and 1,382 in 1972. Page 3

Pound has a good day against the dollar

The pound rose by nearly two cents to close at \$1.835, sterling's highest rate against the dollar since April last year. Despite thin trading, sterling also rose against other currencies, the effective exchange rate of 64.1 per cent of its 1971 parity being the highest recorded since the beginning of November. Page 13

Bonus ban at pit stops overtime

Miners at Salsburgh colliery, near Dunfermline, began to work to rule and banned overtime after the Scottish area of the National Union of Mineworkers had rejected a productivity deal should be affirmed on an area basis and not negotiated by individual collieries. The miners say an area agreement would give them only £5 a week against £30 on a local basis. Page 2

Luxury food burnt

Fauchon, the luxury food shop in the Place de la Madeleine in Paris, had all five floors of its building destroyed by fire after early morning explosions. It is thought likely that its display of the choicest food, wines and spirits had provoked left-wing extremists. Page 3

Miller misses century

The First Test between England and Pakistan in Lahore ended in a draw. England were all out for 288 in their first innings, 119 behind. Miller missed a maiden first-class century when he was run out of partners in the 38. Pakistan were 106 for three at the close. John Woodcock, page 6

Mr Lynch named in Fraser Cabinet

Mr Philip Lynch, who resigned as Australian Treasurer on the eve of the recent general election campaign after a

HOME NEWS

Decrease in violence but more army casualties in Ulster

From Christopher Walker Belfast

Official statistics issued by the British Army yesterday by the Northern Ireland Office illustrate a marked improvement in the security situation and show most forms of terrorism violence at their lowest level for many years since 1970.

With less than a fortnight to go before the end of the year, the total number of violent deaths in 1977 stood at 111 yesterday, compared with 296 last year and 482 in 1972, the worst year for shooting and bombing yet recorded.

When the figures are broken down further it is shown that any casualties are one of two types. Indicators of violence to rise during the past 12 months. By last night the number of regular British soldiers killed was 14, compared with 14 in 1976 and 103 in 1972. The fact that two of the victims were undercover troops operating in plain clothes reflects the change of emphasis from open to covert military operations.

The gradual return to normal for both Roman Catholic and Protestant citizens is demonstrated in the number of civilian deaths, standing at 68 compared with 244 last year and 336 in 1972. Above all, the drop reflects a halt in the campaign of hit-and-run sectarian murder, which was one of the most chilling tactics to be used by the IRA in the past eight years of terrorism.

The fall in the number of civilians killed is mirrored in the annual statistics for serious injuries. For all categories together, both civilians and members of the security forces, the 1977 total stands at 524, compared with 1,425 last year and 4,574 in 1972.

Mr Steel accepts challenge to debate Liberal strategy

By Fred Emery Political Editor

Mr Steel last night accepted a challenge that when he attends next month's Liberal assembly, he will debate his strategy of persevering with the Liberal-Labour pact versus a "more radical" independent strategy. The Liberal Party leader, who was elected to the House of Commons last night, threw himself into the debate with party activists in an extraordinary meeting on BBC TV's Panorama programme.

Once again, deliberately eschewing a threat of resignation, Mr Steel made it clear that if the assembly disavows him and calls for a prompt end to the pact, he is likely to continue himself out of the leadership. "So much was common sense," he said. "A leader must follow and, if he loses his followers, then you better get out of the way," he said.

He reiterated his view that the agreement with Mr Callaghan should be broken abruptly only if the Government gave into the excessive wage demands and re-imposed inflation; otherwise it should be subject to proper notice for later on. Mr Steel

Better deal for tenants on new council estate

From John Young Planning Reporter Wolverhampton

A new council estate at Pendeford, on the outskirts of Wolverhampton, officially opened yesterday by Mr Freeman, Minister for Housing and Construction, may mark a turning point in the attitude of local authorities to tenants.

The 474-acre estate is intended to house more than 10,000 people by 1981. Mr Kenneth Purchase, chairman of Wolverhampton Housing Management Committee, and his colleagues believe that the discount found on many estates is not primarily caused by the quality of the housing or the environment, which is often better than on private developments. What is needed, they say, is a new relationship where tenants are no longer made to feel they are being "dumped".

Ennals letter no help, dentists say

By Our Health Services Correspondent

A letter from Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, to 11,800 dentists about their dispute over expenses and fees did not move the matter an inch further, Mr Ronald Allen, general secretary of the British Dental Association, said last night.

It urged dentists not to impose sanctions against patients, registered with the association had offered no constructive suggestion about overpaid expenses, and said the overpayment could not be ignored because it amounted to an unconscionable bonus to dentists.

Mr Allen said he was willing to discuss the issue. He conceded that in many dentists' minds the dispute was bound up with questions of pay. What he suggested he had no intention of reducing fees or demanding lump sum repayments.

Mr Allen said the next meeting of the Dental Rates Study Group, which advises on dentists' pay, would be re-examining its methods.

Detective awarded £20,000 for libel

Detective Inspector Bernard Muller

Detective Inspector Bernard Muller was awarded £20,000 in damages by the High Court yesterday over a newspaper article on police corruption.

Mr Muller, aged 40, of Osmond Gardens, Orpington, Greater London, had maintained that although he was not named in the article, he was one of the officers mentioned in a front page report headlined "Caught! A Crooked Cop", in the *Sunday People* in November, 1974.

The award was against the newspaper and Mr Trevor Apisall, a crime reporter, who wrote the article. They had denied libel and maintained that the report was true.

After yesterday's hearing Mr Muller, who was promoted from detective sergeant during the seven-day trial, said it was a vindication for him and for everyone else. "I have been three years waiting for this moment."

Mr Justice Bristow said the newspaper's defence of justification was based on a statement made by a man who described himself as a "free distributor" but was an East London professional criminal.

The man was Gerald O'Halloran, aged 41, of Crescent Road, Upton Park. He said Mr Muller, then a sergeant with the joint Kent and Metropolitan Regional Crime Squad, had, with another officer, been paid for bribes of £1,500 to get him built on a theft charge.

Mr O'Halloran had special reasons for wanting Mr Muller out of the way. The officer's evidence at trial had caused him to lose his conviction on the most serious charge he was facing at that time: involvement in the theft of a lorry-load of car batteries.

The judge said that, in effect, he had been asked to "try a charge of corruption brought by the *Sunday People* against this police officer".

Apart from Mr O'Halloran's statement, the only evidence in support of the defence was a tape recording made by Mr Aspinall of telephone conversations between Mr O'Halloran and the officer named in the newspaper report, Detective Constable Leslie King.

In the recordings Mr O'Halloran had mentioned Mr Muller. But the judge, after having implicated Mr Muller in his statement, he had to conclude that he was in the telephone call.

"I do believe that the story of a man in the hall is a sham," the judge said. "If the *Sunday People* had been told after the initial investigation cleared him, then compensation would have been modest," the judge said. "But a policy decision was taken, not by Mr Aspinall, to fight the case to the death."

Constable King, who had faced two corruption charges, was discharged when Mr O'Halloran refused to give evidence at criminal proceedings. After internal disciplinary proceedings he was fined, reprimanded and returned to uniform.

With Mr John Pick, prospective Liberal candidate for Leicester, who rejected Mr Steel's strategy outright, Mr Steel suggested that, with the party conference supporting him, "it was a little late to go back now".

Cumbria needs putting in the picture

When parliamentary and public debate on the recent Anson committee report on broadcasting began early next year some of the most intensive interest in it will be shown in the ancient kingdom of Cumbria, now an administrative county with unusual troubles created by the 1974 local government reorganisation.

One of the county's greatest needs, in the view of its political leaders, is a welding together of its constituent districts of Lancashire and a tiny corner of Yorkshire. In trying to achieve that they often feel frustrated because there is no television service covering the whole county.

The range of Fells running across the southern half of the county, rising to 1,900 feet and more at Shap (which were troublesome for the Romans), constitute the main physical obstacle; the layout of radio and television stations is a major administrative difficulty.

The White Paper on the Anson report, due to be published in January, is felt to have provided a focus for discussion in the next round of independent broadcasting authority contract renewals in 1979 may be the right time for a significant improvement.

The northern half of the county is served by Border Television, by BBC Newcastle and the southern half by Granada (Manchester) and BBC Manchester.

By an odd quirk of geography viewers in the south-west of Cumbria get their best reception from BBC TV, its signal, coming happily across an unobstructed Liverpool Bay, but many of its strongly Welsh-aligned programmes are the only passing interest to the people of Borrow-in-Furness and Grange-over-Sands.

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Man in the news: Sir Alfred Ayer's successor

Philosopher's firm views on race

By Roger Berthoud

The announcement that Dr Michael Dummett, a senior research fellow at All Souls College, is to succeed Sir Alfred Ayer as Wykeham Professor of Logic at Oxford University brings into greater prominence a man agreed by his colleagues to be outstanding.

Dr Dummett, famous since his 1953 book *Frege's Philosophy of Language*, has been the first manifesto of logical positivism in Britain, exploded on the intellectual world in 1936, retired at the end of the academic year, having held the chair since 1953. Dr Dummett's commitment to logic has been taking over until 1979 a position that involves lecturing two or three times a week.

Of Dr Dummett's stature as a philosopher there seem to be few doubts, even among his colleagues. One describes him as "the most original and profound philosopher of his generation working in England". His most important work so far has been his study of Gottlob Frege (1878-1975), a formidable German now accepted in Britain and the United States as the father of modern formal logic and the philosophy of language.

Volume 7 (700 pages long) But perhaps Dr Dummett's most striking attribute has been his passionate involvement in race relations, shared by his wife, Ann. At one stage, before his move to Oxford, he was a reader in the philosophy of mathematics at Oxford, spent many hours at Heathrow airport helping incoming Asians from being turned back by the immigration authorities.

Dr Dummett's views on race are firm and clear. He is a philosopher, and sees faith and logic as in no way mutually exclusive.

It is true, he agrees, that logical positivism in its heyday swept away religion and metaphysics; religion with the use of the verification principle (which claimed that a statement is meaningful if it is capable of being verified). But that concept of verification was crude and implausible, and the doctrine was now a part of history.

The Dummetts have five children, two boys being pianists. Traditional jazz is one of Dr Dummett's hobbies. Another is the history of playing cards. He is writing a book about a game played with cards; "in no way occult", he emphasises with a laugh.

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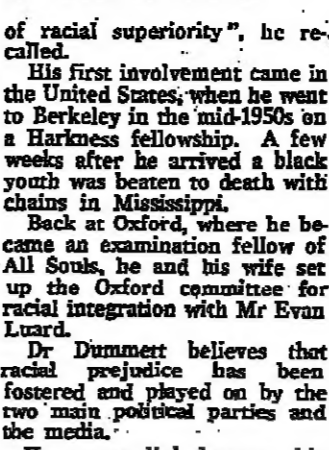
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Dr Dummett: "Original and profound."

How did the son of a fairly prosperous London businessman (in silk and rayon) educated at Winchester come to the view that Britain is, to an unrecognised extent, a racist society?

At his present home in Oxford, Dr Dummett, a plump, rather amusing but occasionally choleric man of 54, explained that it all began in the Army, which he joined for four years in 1943 before going to Christ Church. After learning written in Delhi and then in Malaya, he found himself first in the British colonial governments and the people who ran them, and was appalled.

What most impressed me was that they were founded on an attempt to maintain a myth of racial superiority", he recalled.

His first involvement came in the United States, when he went to Berkeley in the mid-1950s on a Hartness fellowship. A few weeks after he arrived a black youth was beaten to death with chains in Mississippi.

Back at Oxford, where he became an examination fellow of All Souls, he and his wife set up the Oxford committee for racial integration with Mr Evan Luard.

Dr Dummett believes that racial prejudice has been fostered and played on by the two main political parties and the media.

He sees a link between his views on race and his deep convictions as a Roman Catholic. He was converted at 18, well before he became a philosopher, and sees faith and logic as in no way mutually exclusive.

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WEST EUROPE

Murder victim's son says Bonn too soft in anti-terrorist fight

From Patricia Clough Bonn, Dec 19

The West German Government today came under unwelcome psychological pressure from the eldest son of Herr Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the industrialist who was kidnapped and later murdered by terrorists two months ago.

In a newspaper interview, Herr Hanns-Eberhard Schleyer, a 33-year-old lawyer, accused the Social Democratic-Free Democratic coalition of failing to take sufficiently energetic action to combat terrorism. He said he feared his father had died in vain.

The father, who was chairman of the West German Industries Federation, was murdered after the Government refused to release 11 terrorists from jail in exchange for his life. His death is believed to have been premeditated by the kidnappers, the Mogadishu rescue team, and the 86 Luftwaffe airliner hostages, held by an Arab gang to reinforce the terrorists' demands.

Young son's remarks injected a strongly emotive element into the long-drawn debate of further anti-terrorist legislation.

Herr Hanns-Eberhard Schleyer, whose views are clearly at variance with those of the tabloid *Bild-Zeitung* in which they were printed, was reinforcing as no political figure could, the conservative Opposition's demands for ever tougher and more restrictive measures.

The Christian Democrats recently accused the Government once again with lack of decisiveness and said it must carry the blame if there was another terrorist outrage. *Bild* today said that 60 per cent of West Germans wanted even more special laws against terrorism.

Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, has maintained, and the coalition agrees, that the Government should not be panicked into a frenzy of hasty and ill-considered legislation. He believes the problem can be solved without restricting constitutional freedoms in the name of Order (law and order).

Although new legislation is clearly needed to close loopholes in a penal code that was not designed for use against

terrorists and conspiratorial lawyers, the left wing is aware of the limited usefulness of legislation.

The Opposition's attacks appear to be prompted by disappointment over its failure to have a series of measures approved in the parliamentary justice committee.

The all-party collaboration promised in the emotional aftermath of the Schleyer murder and the Mogadishu rescue team, which it became clear that the two sides simply could not agree on many important points.

Opposition proposals, including the monitoring of conversations between jailed terrorists and their lawyers, were thrown out. The inclusion of "sympathisers", for instance, people who distribute leaflets in favour of terrorists, among those who could be liable for rescue or a criminal organization was also rejected.

The Bills which will now go on to the Bundestag next month would give wider scope to keep suspected lawyers away from terrorists in jail and provide for glass panelling between lawyer and client to prevent the smuggling of illegal objects into prisons.

They also allow for the establishment of check points for searching people during big terrorist manhunt and allow the police to hold a person who cannot or will not identify himself for up to 12 hours while they carry out checks.

The Federal Criminal Office today added the names of five more suspected terrorists to the list of 15 wanted urgently for recent outrages. They are Siegfried Hofmann, aged 32, Stefan Wisniewski, aged 24, Ralf Friedrich, aged 31, Monika Hebling, aged 24, and Peter Boock, aged 26.

Hofmann, Wisniewski, Friedrich and Boock are all suspected of belonging to the Haas-Meyer gang, a successor of the Baader-Meinhof group. Monika Hebling is suspected of having collaborated with Knut Folkerts, a terrorist captured in Holland after a gunbattle with police.

Only one of the original 16 has been captured: Christoph Wackernagel, who was badly wounded after a gunbattle with the police in Holland.

There is a likelihood that the store, has been selected by left-wing extremists, its display of the choicest, rarest, and most expensive products, the finest wines and spirits, caviar, foie gras, chocolates and truffles, the finest grapes and strawberries in mid-winter, and exotic fruits, had singled it out as a symbol of luxury.

Bordeaux: Thieves stole 970lb of foie gras (goose liver pâté) from a Bordeaux warehouse, valued at 100,000 francs.

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SPORT

Miller's innings is unadventurous but an admirable one of its kind

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Lahore, Dec 19

Another three or four days might have been needed for a result to be achieved in the first Test match between England and Pakistan which ended in a draw here this afternoon. After gaining a first innings lead of 119, Pakistan in their second innings were 106 for three when the stumps were pulled up, and the pitch was still crumpled with runs.

The pitch was not the only reason for the deadlock. Fielding, as they did, an inexperienced side, Pakistan approached the match with understandable caution. Had they done badly here there would have been further calls for England to be brought back, or bought back, from Australia. The crowds at Hyderabad and Karachi, where the two remaining Tests are to be played, would have been adversely affected. Dull though it is, it was a useful piece of cricket for Pakistan.

Once they had taken only two wickets on the first day England began to feel in terms of a draw. Disturbances on the second and third days simply compounded the problem, although Pakistan still bowled well enough to provide moments of the fourth afternoon. Their attack looked more capable than England's, but the slow bowlers, primarily because their slow bowler spun the ball more than Miller or Cooper. Although he took only one for 82, Abdul Qadir gives his leg breaks and googlies a real flip.

The fact that England and Pakistan scored only 801 runs in five days is an hour and a half, and that India and Australia have already made 853 in three days in Perth, can only be partly accounted for by the differing conditions - a fast pitch there, a slow one here. If the next two Tests in Pakistan are not to go the same way as the one

just finished, both sides will need to show more batting enterprise. England are no more likely to win with Boycott taking nearly six hours to score 63 than Pakistan are with Mills making more than nine hours and a half over 114.

The main interest today revolved round Miller's attempt to reach his first first-class 100. Having woken up with a heavy cold, and lost three of his four remaining partners in the opening 35 minutes, all to Sarfaraz, his chance looked remote when Willis, the last man in, joined him. Miller at the time was 79, but Willis became determined and Miller pressed on with a little more steel in his game might become a really good one.

Miller, by his tactics, relied heavily on Willis's continuing survival, and ended a quarter of an hour into the afternoon, Willis was caught at backward short leg, but Miller's partner, who was still with Miller on 98. During the 90 minutes of his partnership with Willis he had turned down any number of long lines and taken a calculated chance. Of his kind, Miller's was an admirable innings by a cricketer who with a little more steel in his game might become a really good one.

When Pakistan began their second innings only three hours playing time remained. The afternoon was breezy, cool, the crowd, no more than 3,000 strong, was content with a draw (the ninth in 10 Test matches between England and Pakistan in Pakistan). Se-j was bowled by a shot from Lever, and Muddassar and Shauq were both out to Willis, who thus took his fiftieth and last Test wicket of 1977, on grounds as far apart as Melbourne and Lahore. Of England's 11 Test matches in this same calendar year, six have been won, two lost and three drawn, a big improvement on 1976.

Test scorecard

PAKISTAN: First Innings, 407 for 9 (declared)	
Salim Mubtashir	122
Muddassar	114
Shauq	106
Se-j	63
Abdul Qadir	82
Wicket-keepers	10
Extras (b-b-s)	10
Total (5 wkts)	407
ENGLAND: First Innings	
Boyatt	10
Willis	114
Miller	79
Cooper	56
Se-j	45
Wicket-keepers	10
Extras (b-b-s)	10
Total (5 wkts)	350

Test scorecard

PAKISTAN: Second Innings	
Salim Mubtashir	26
Muddassar	10
Shauq	10
Se-j	10
Abdul Qadir	10
Wicket-keepers	10
Extras (b-b-s)	10
Total (5 wkts)	100
ENGLAND: Second Innings	
Boyatt	10
Willis	10
Miller	10
Cooper	10
Se-j	10
Wicket-keepers	10
Extras (b-b-s)	10
Total (5 wkts)	100

Rugby Union



A stand-off half's ups and downs: Martin Cooper (right) is omitted from England's final trial and John Horton plays for the Rest.

England selectors audition Bignell for a major part in back row

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The choice of Eric Bignell at No 8 in the senior XV, the omission of Martin Cooper from the final trial, and the nomination of Bill Beaumont as England captain, are the most significant items in the selection for the final trial at Twickenham on January 7. Alan Old, who missed the climax to the divisional series with a rib injury, was stand-off half for the senior team in a northern alliance with Malcolm Young.

The choice of Bignell for Blackheath and Kent, to whose progress in the county championship he contributed much, Bignell has been chosen for the London team to play the North 10 days ago. But he was chosen to play for the West last Saturday and here he is, as he appears to Roger Utley, but one week's difference in position which has given the selectors considerable concern. John Scott, who has been in the position since last year, has had an edge against him at the weekend, but there is no doubt about Bignell's selection. The selectors are looking for a player who can play in the back row and who can play in the back row.

The job of front jumper at the lineout goes to Russell Field, whose power and grit at close quarters are invaluable, and at No 10 to Maurice Colclough, whose fine performance for London last Saturday has been suitably rewarded. Bob Mould, a flanker, is another member of that revived and reconstructed London pack who will be in the team.

But Neil Marshall, who was as well in his old position at lock, has been named as a reserve.

In trials this season and last David Caplan has done more than enough to win a place in the second row. He has been named as a reserve, but he is a player who can play in the back row.

Last week the northern schools gave such a devastating display in attack against their southern counterparts that they were selected in bloc for this encounter. Yesterday it was the turn of their defence to show their strength against southern opposition. That they survived the testing ordeal is to their credit.

The youth team, watched by scouts as well as by the selectors, the England manager, gave an early indication of their second row. For the first 30 minutes they kept the ball to themselves. From then on, their attitude rarely changed, but the selectors were not so sure. The youth team, watched by scouts as well as by the selectors, the England manager, gave an early indication of their second row. For the first 30 minutes they kept the ball to themselves. From then on, their attitude rarely changed, but the selectors were not so sure.

Hookes hopes to be back by end of January

Sydney, Dec 19.—David Hookes, an Australian batsman, hopes to leave hospital and be playing cricket again before the end of next month.

Hookes underwent an operation at the weekend to wire his broken jaw and cheekbone after being hit in the face by a short-pitched ball from Roberts in the match between the Australians and a West Indian XI here on Friday.

Hookes was still unable to speak today but was cheerful and plans to return to Adelaide immediately. The talented left-handed player is one of the few Australians who have performed well against the West Indians speed attack and is determined to regain his place in the Australian team.

Hookes was hit by a short-pitched ball from Roberts in the match between the Australians and a West Indian XI here on Friday.

Australians upset by lack of response to Test

Perth, Dec 19.—Australian cricket officials today blamed the weather for poor attendance over the first three days of India's second Test match against Australia here.

With the midday temperature at 37 degrees, only 5,281 people braved the heat yesterday to watch the Australian captain, Bobby Simpson, score 176 and ruin India's prospects of winning the game and thereby squaring the series.

Today was a test day with India 67 for one in their second innings, 75 runs ahead. The pitch is still playing easily and a result looks likely.

The crowds compare unfavourably with the improved attendance at the first Test.

Brent Ballman, the West Australian Cricket Association secretary, said: "We are very disappointed at the public's lack of response. I expected crowds of between 10,000 and 15,000 on the Saturday and Sunday." Some officials thought that target would have been achieved had the heat been less oppressive.

When England played Australia in Perth three years ago there were 63,000 to watch the first three days.

Simpson's astonishing comeback to Test cricket after a nine-year absence has been received rapturously by the Australian press. The Sydney Daily Telegraph, in an editorial, said: "Australians everywhere are proud of this man, Bobby. We've got a Test team again."

Some cricket writers are concerned about who will lead the side after the 41-year-old Simpson, who has been in the team since 1968, retires. Simpson's successor, commented in a Sunday paper yesterday that he could not see a successor to Simpson unless a combination of the public's lack of response, I expected crowds

Show jumping



Elizabeth Edgar and Everest Wallaby go clear to win the Mistletree Chase.

Mrs Edgar reaches Everest peaks

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

Elizabeth Edgar brought off a double for the Everest Stud at Olympia yesterday afternoon. She first won the Radio Rentals Take Your Own Line on Everest Make Do, by 1.5sec from her brother, David Bryme, on Ballywillow, with Eddie Macken third, one tenth of a second behind on Jabbar. And then she went on to take the North Union Mistletree Steeplechase on Everest Wallaby, on whom she won the most coveted competition of the North American flat circuit, the New York Grand Prix in Madison Square Garden in November.

Yorkshire, Reliance (formerly Chelsea Girl), the horse which she has leased as a substitute for a racing car from which they got little mileage in the way of publicity, held the lead with Malcolm Pyrah in 50.9sec, until overtaken, with a second in hand, by Rowland Fothergill and Brother Dominic.

Harvey Smith failed to come to terms with Graf, now relegated to speed competitions after Saturday night's high jump record attempt, and eventually finished fourth. Everest Wallaby jumped the winning round in 47.5sec. Tim Grubb, the last to go, came on in inchy style to finish in second place.

Hendrik Snek and the French-bred Gay Lord won the North Union Cigar Stakes, the main event of the day, at Olympia on Sunday night. It was Snek's second victory of the day. Nine went against the clock and in a barrage full of incident, Harvey Smith and Graffid held a fence down before Roland Fothergill and Judy Granger's Bouncer fell at an error in the final trouble, amassing 17 faults.

Graham Fletcher was the first to go clear on Tauna Dora, in 37.3 sec. Geoffrey Glazard and Fenwood Forge went out in 37.2 sec, at the expense of the middle part of the trouble, before Snek pulled off the winning round in 47.5 sec. Most at Chandon Chopin into second place, half a second slower, before Derek Ricketts took Hydrophane Goldstream who has been rested since Dublin, into third place in 34.6 sec.

Eddie Macken's challenge on Boomerang, who set up the optimum time when he went through the finish in 32.1sec, failed at the last hurdle. Eddie Broomie and Manhattan, who had been in the lead, were both out at the last hurdle. Snek and Graffid, won the 11sec stakes by 3.6sec from Elizabeth Edgar on Everest Make Do and Nicholas Skelton on Everest Maybe. West Germany finished third by half a second, represented by Snek on Rappin and Fritz Ligges on Wapiti.

HARRIS CARPETS KNOCKOUT: 1. H. Snek's Rappin (W Germany); 2. P. Fletcher's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 3. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 4. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 5. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 6. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 7. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 8. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 9. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 10. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 11. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 12. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 13. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 14. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 15. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 16. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 17. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 18. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 19. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 20. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 21. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 22. H. Snek's Everest Maybe (W Germany); 23. H. Snek's Everest Make Do (W Germany); 24. H. 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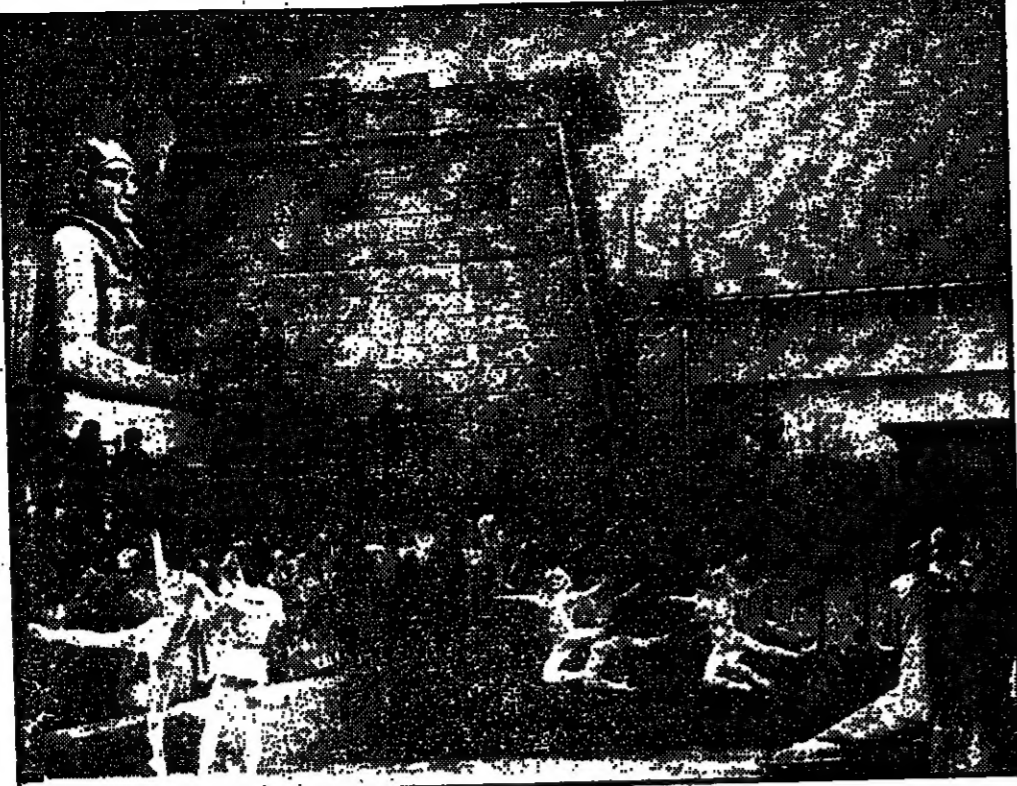
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Bernard Levin

Seriously though, how can Verdi possibly be compared to Wagner?

My Bach problem is widely familiar; my Beethoven problem hardly less so; my Wagner problem might perhaps be better described as your Wagner problem. Today, however, I want to discuss a musician of whom few would think that he could pose a problem even to the most perverse. Yet the fact is, I have a Verdi problem, and one so shameful that you may well feel that I ought to be communicating it not to the world at large, but to Marjorie Proops in the deepest confidence and with a stamped addressed envelope enclosed for her to supply the wheedling of the nearest clinic equipped to treat it. My problem is that I cannot take Verdi seriously. I cannot even persuade myself that he is a serious composer.

I do not mean that I cannot take *Il Trovatore* seriously, though I certainly cannot: I have been seeing it for very many years (the first performance I went to was given by the Carl Rosa Company at the King's Theatre, Hamersmith, neither of which has existed for many a decade, and I sat next to a very stout lady who got so gorged on a fit of giggles in the Anvil Chorus that the entire row of seats in which we sat began to vibrate from end to end like a suspension bridge with an army marching across it in step until I feared that she would overthrow the whole lot of us from our foundations, but I could not possibly tell you its plot without first burying my head in Kobbe for a quarter of an hour, and even then would get it wrong. But where *Trovatore* is concerned I am in good company, for it is not only I and the fat lady who cannot take it seriously. I know there are some pretty things in it—have a record of *Trovatore* singing *Proemio alla terra* and also some inescapably stirring ones, though I have heard far too many tenors who bring to mind only Shaw's description of a *Mancio* "finishing *Di quella pira* with a high C capable of making a stranded man-of-war recoil off a reef into mid-ocean". But all the nonsense



A scene from *Aida*, and its composer, Verdi: he looks serious enough...

about the changing having been burnt at the stake (you see what I mean about my imperfect recollection of the plot) is generally regarded as pretty fair budge even by those who go all mist-eyed at the sound of the *Miserere*. (The same, only more so, goes for *Symphony*.) My sin is far greater; I cannot take *Rigoletto* or *Aida*, and I am sorry to say that I mean I cannot take the music seriously; it is not just the plot or the libretto. Indeed, now that I have started I may as well define the extreme limits of my guilt by confessing (though as soon as I have done so I shall have to change my name, don't a false beard and blue-tinted spectacles, and go abroad until the wrath of Mr David "Sparafucile" Cairns has somewhat

abated) that I cannot take *Otello* itself seriously. I stress that I enjoy the work as I enjoy most Verdi, provided only that it is tolerably performed. Yet my very enjoyment of it indicates my attitude, for I cease to be interested at the end of Act II, where my hair stands on end for *Si, per carità*, as good as most of the first two, and the fourth in particular, including the Willow Song—simply bores me. (I would always leave without compunction half-way through *Otello* were it not for Mr Cairns's hired bravos lurking at every exit.)

What is it, then, that leaves me stranded always on the surface of Verdi, unable to recognize the depths that others declare exist in his music, rubbing

my eyes in wonder when they claim for him the ability to portray emotion and delineate character with an intensity comparable to that of Mozart and, er, Wagner? For in all his works put together there does not seem to me to be as much truth about the human heart as there is in the five minutes of Susanna's ecstasy in *Dei vieni* from *Figaro*, or in the similarly brief duet of consolation (*Bei du bist ein Engel*) in the *Magic Flute*, nor as much understanding of the meaning of will, conscience, fear and ruin as there is in *Wotan's* invocation of Erda at the beginning of Act III of *Siegfried*.

There are comparisons which make my point more directly. Take the *Miserere* scene in *Trovatore* that I mentioned. It consists of a man imprisoned



by a tyrant and under sentence of death, with his faithful love nearby, determined to rescue him or die in the attempt. Well, what does that remind you of? (Don't just sit there giggling at me: even her name is the same.) Quite: that is the story of *Fidelio*, is it not? And will you really maintain that even if you multiply by ninety-nine the force, the conviction and the perception of the divine (which is the essence of art) that Verdi's version contains you will end with anything that amounts to one ninety-ninth of the whole? Verdi achieved with the same dramatic and psychological materials?

The Verdians cannot get out of it by saying that Beethoven was the greater genius. Of

course he was, but the difference between *Fidelio* and *Trovatore* is not one of degree; the gulf that separates them is wider than that which separates *Dives* from *Lazarus*, and the gulf that separates *Don Carlos* or *Quilès* from *Trovatore* or *Ernani* is but a straw's breadth by comparison. In other words, the difference between Verdi's greatest and weakest work is nothing: the difference between Verdi and real genius is all.

I had better repeat quickly and clearly a couple of nasty-looking characters in dark glasses have already arrived on the pavement opposite, and one of them is whistling a bit of Berlioz that I enjoy most of Verdi's music. I got at Westford last year from his *Giovanna d'Arco*, a work of almost unique absurdity but unceasingly melodious, and some of my happiest operatic evenings have been spent in Verdi's company. But I am never dragged into the heart of the drama by his music, never compelled to rejoice with his heroes, never stirred more deeply than the outer layers of pleasure.

Except, of course, in *Falstaff*. That opera is not only the exception to the Verdi canon where I am concerned, it is musically different from the rest of his work; it seems to me an achievement of such transcendent genius that it alone the rest of his collected works do not do justice to it. It is the very foremost rank of artists. It is no blasphemy in my ears to speak of the man who wrote *Falstaff* as the peer of the man who wrote *Don Giovanni*, and indeed I regard it not only as Verdi's masterpiece but as one of the very few operas to achieve complete perfection, so that not a single change or removal without lessening it: for me, only *Falstaff*, *Die Meistersinger*, *Fidelio* and *Rosenkavalier* join in my list of the great. But I think it requires a column to itself, and sooner or later that is what it will get.

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We can have more local radio without losing the quality

Recently the House of Commons welcomed a statement by the Home Secretary that "there will inevitably be an expansion of local radio". He did not say when; nor did he admit that he could get the expansion going now—at the stroke of a pen—by letter of instruction to the chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Here's how:

Dear Lady Plowden, Sir Michael Swann, My colleagues and I have now considered the priorities for action, following the Annan Report on the Future of Broadcasting. Some issues still require further study, especially those which involve parliamentary time for the discussion of structural changes or public spending.

But we have now decided that in local broadcasting where, as you know, the existing legislation enables us to take action, we should authorize you now to proceed. The Government has been impressed by the contribution of the local radio services in recent years, and this letter is to permit their expansion. Both the BBC and the IBA have made clear their wish to expand, to encourage both of you to do so.

I am aware that the BBC may need to review its own priorities in view of its extensive commitments across the whole of broadcasting, and the financial limitations of its licence fee income. I would fully understand Sir Michael's reasons should the BBC decide to reduce national radio broadcasting in order to increase the spread of its equally popular local broadcasting activities, throughout the nation.

The IBA has made clear its wish to move ahead at once and we look to the IBA for speedy action on the basis of the "authority" existing resources making no further call on public funds. My colleagues and I share the conviction that local radio can play a most useful and entertaining part in modern Britain, and provide a valuable service to an increasing number of communities throughout the country.

I should appreciate an early reply from you both on your plans for 1978. Yours sincerely, Maryn Rees, Home Secretary.

This authorization and encouragement would ensure more local radio in less time and at less added cost than any plan to amalgamate all local broadcasting into a new Local Broadcasting Authority (as the Annan Report recommends), or to allow independent broadcasters and the BBC to expand into new areas according to some prescribed criteria. And it should ensure better quality local broadcasting as well. So what are the difficulties?

Radio clutter from overlapping broadcast signals from a growing multitude of broadcast stations is one. Broadcasting frequencies must be kept separate in closely contoured areas in our crowded country and in our crowded continent. Towns with as little as 10-12,000 population in the United States can support their own very local radio station even though people in these towns may be able to pick up as many as 10 other semi-local stations broadcasting from other towns in their vicinity. If we in Britain do not plan for our local broadcasting needs, we shall be in no position to haggle for the frequencies we shall want at the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference.

John Rae

What about cost? Radio already draws its finance from local and national advertisers keen to reach the audiences they serve. New stations would be similarly financed. In addition the IBA should be prepared to use the secondary rental income from those established stations which are already well run to help establish and run independent stations in smaller townships which might otherwise not be economically viable during start-up years. The same source of funds can help build quality programming (particularly for minority audiences) on these smaller stations and elsewhere.

The BBC has to face a harder choice, particularly because it must be out of court for it to come to Parliament for a dramatic increase in licence fee to finance local radio—or for any other reason. Because of this the BBC cannot, nor should it, consider local radio broadcasting separately from national radio network activity. I believe that there is absolutely nothing sacrosanct about Radios 1 and 2 continuing for ever as national networks. Both are akin in character to the other (or both?) could well be broadcast locally on a totally syndicated basis without much loss of that character. A transfer of only half the £16m operational funding of Radios 1 and 2 could more than double BBC's local broadcasting activity, which represented less than 3 per cent of total BBC domestic operating costs last year.

And what about quality of programmes? The point has already been made that Radios 1 and 2 could be locally syndicated without loss of character or quality; they might even be improved. Even Radio 4 could be localized, though more of its programme content is national in character; particularly the news should probably be created like ITN or ITN are created now. As for Radio 3, its frequency reallocations for next year are far from ideal in terms of quality (VHF; wave), or more properly given the pick of the national wavelengths, particularly after localization of Radios 1 and 2. By these realignments BBC would be able to establish a veritable quality of radio in this country and elsewhere.

There would not be an identifiable community which does not in the foreseeable future, have at least one local radio station tuned to its needs and its interests—be they geographical communities as in the Orkneys and Shetlands, or communities of young people as in a university town, or retired people as in many towns along the south coast, or immigrant communities of various kinds.

These "precinct" communities in our larger urban areas. To meet the latest broadcast needs of these multitude of communities of interest, the ambitious plans already being prepared by the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority must both be tapped. With the proven success of local radio broadcasting where it presently exists, it would be a tragedy if government does not now do all in its power to encourage future expansion.

Over to you, Mr Rees.

Tim Rathbone

The author is Conservative MP for Lewes. ©Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977

It's Machiavelli, being as pessimistic as ever

More than ever before, more clearly than at any previous time of accuracy of diagnosis. But why do you call it pessimistic? I tell the truth about humanity. If a doctor tells you the blood circulates round the body, if Galileo tells you the earth moves round the sun, are they called pessimistic? The truth is only pessimistic to those who live by myths.

R: You imply that we still live by myths. M: The Christian Church created the myth of divine grace: man is wicked but he is capable of redemption. When that myth began to die, you replaced it with the liberal myth of human goodness. It is this myth that prevents you seeing the world as it really is. R: Man is irredeemably wicked?

M: Yes, I wish it were not so, be contained by the force and cunning of the ruler and modified by the precepts of religion, but it cannot be changed. R: You seem to recognize a role for religion yet you do not believe in God. M: I believe in the usefulness of the idea of God. Religion promotes virtue and unity, both of which contribute to the survival of the state. R: And is the "survival of the state" the only criterion by which to judge a ruler? M: Certainly. In politics every action is judged by its effect. The question of good and evil does not arise. The ruler cannot allow morality or Christian ethics, which may be an admirable restraint for the private citizen, to influence his decisions in public affairs. The survival of the state is his only concern.

R: Isn't this emphasis on the state an anachronism in the modern world? M: On the contrary, the proliferation of states makes it more evident. R: What I meant was the United Nations... M: The United Nations is a convenient forum for the pursuit of national interests under the cloak of international co-operation. No state allows its vital interests to be infringed unless it is too weak to prevent it. That has always been the case and always will be. R: But the United Nations represents, especially perhaps for young people, a rejection of the old emphasis on action states and a belief that the human race is one people. M: Men turn to universalism when they tire of war, but it is

unusual. The land of your birth is an accident of nature; the whole of mankind is meaningless. Man may be persuaded to subordinate their passions to increase the strength and unity of their country. To expect them to curtail them for the benefit of the human race is unrealistic. R: So questions of humanity are irrelevant to international politics. M: It may suit a government to appear to act for humanitarian reasons—indeed it is preferable that it should do so, but in reality it will be pursuing its own interests. R: But states are not always motivated by self-interest. They may sincerely oppose evils such as racism and oppression—in the Second World War, for example, or in modern attitudes towards South Africa. M: I do not agree. The liberal myth blinds you to the truth. In the Second World War all states were motivated by self-interest. They did not fight because they opposed racism and oppression but because their vital interests were threatened. Similarly, no state today opposes apartheid unless it serves its policy to do so. Rulers condemn or condone oppression as their own interests dictate. And this realism in international affairs is more blaspheous than before such pains to disguise their policy behind ideas—freedom, equality, tolerance, human rights—that blur the edge of national identity. R: How then do you see the future of mankind? M: Men will tire of peace as they have tired of war. The cycle will continue. The east and props may be different, but the plot will always be the same because man's passions cannot change. R: But you would not deny that man has made some progress. M: It is progress if a cannibal uses a knife and fork. Has his nature changed? The Christian and liberal myths still haunt your civilization. Man's wickedness is for all time, without change and without redemption. R: Yet despite all that you say, a few men and women live unselfish lives. How do you account for that? M: It is an act of defiance. They feel compelled to deny a truth they cannot bear to contemplate. R: Signor Machiavelli, thank you very much.



Machiavelli: man is irredeemably wicked.

suit of national interests under the cloak of international co-operation. No state allows its vital interests to be infringed unless it is too weak to prevent it. That has always been the case and always will be. R: But the United Nations represents, especially perhaps for young people, a rejection of the old emphasis on action states and a belief that the human race is one people. M: Men turn to universalism when they tire of war, but it is

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John Rae

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

Why Mr Lowe is turning over the leaves

What are the wild tea leaves saying? After 20 years bending an ear, John Lowe, author, lecturer and principal of West Dean College, near Chichester, is still listening for the answers to at least two mysteries: why anyone wanted to add milk to tea, and when the teapot was invented. Mr Lowe has all but completed a book called *A History of Tea Drinking*, to be published for the Victoria and Albert Museum by HMSO. His two decades of research have unearthed some fascinating facts. Did you know, for instance, that when tea was first introduced to Britain at the end of the seventeenth century it cost £8 a lb? And that one of the perks of the eighteenth-century cooks was to sell used tea leaves at the backdoor? The first mention Mr Lowe has been able to find of tea being drunk in England is in a 1653 newspaper (in which Cromwell's death is announced). An advertisement says: "That excellent, and by all Physicians approved, Chinese drink, called by the Chinese Tcha, by other Nations Tay or Tee, is sold at the Sultaness-head, a Conhee-Rous, in Sweetings Rents, by the Royal Exchange, London."

Though the teapot riddle remains, it is known that tea was drunk in the sixth century BC and that it was brewed in bricks. Passing by the Ceylon Tea Centre in Regent Street the other day, I wondered idly why, five years after the republic's conversion to Sri Lanka the centre still clings to its old name. Strictly historical reasons, the helpful staff told me. They said it took a long time for new names to percolate through to one's consciousness. As tea bags are so popular, I thought the metaphor a very apt one.

Doing her own thing for peace

Political observers who sometimes (in the past) thought of Roy Mason as a "fighting cockerel" will be interested to learn that Jane Ewart-Biggs regards him more as a "broody hen", clucking over his hatched and unhatched problems in Northern Ireland. Mind you, she is an ardent admirer of Mr Mason, the Ulster Secretary, and believes that he has done a great deal to bring about what she describes as "the new harmonization" within the Province. When I met Mrs Ewart-Biggs yesterday, the widow of our assassinated Ambassador to Dublin was optimistic about the future of Ulster. "People are beginning to care at last," she said, referring both to the mainland and the island.

A slight lapse in a recent Michael Leppman column, whether editorial or typographical, I do not know—has drawn from Arthur Ables of London SW3 a tale about Macy's, the New York department store which turned up in the column as Macy's. Whether the story is apocryphal or not, I cannot say. It seems that, round about the time of the birth of the Dionne quintuplets, a PR man who said he had acquired the exclusive merchandising rights to the girls' names, approached the president of the store and offered, for a million dollars, a highly imaginative advertising gimmick. "From Marie," he said, "you get your M. From Annette, you get your A. Cecile gives you the C, Emile the E and Yvonne the Y." The president is said to have waited a moment, to achieve the maximum dramatic effect, before replying: "Very ingenious—a wonderful idea. Unfortunately, we spell our name Macy, without the E."

Variations on a signature tune

My recent, somewhat tatty item on the illegible signature of James Cobban, from Abingdon, had the desired effect: it elicited a comment from Mr Cobban himself and I give an extract from his surprisingly courteous letter: "I use my own high-speed signature only when writing to a close personal friend on paper that bears my name clearly printed at the letterhead. On other occasions, I sign myself, as I do to you now, sir..." and a very clear "James Cobban" completes his epistle.

A bank manager from East Dulwich has suggested to me that when someone signs his name more than a thousand times a year, it becomes personalized by its illegibility. "It is possible," he adds "that this is a process of evolution from the time when a person made a mark or provided a seal as personal identification." He appends his own squiggle to illustrate the point, and I reproduce it herewith:

Yours sincerely, V.G. JONES. I get Mr Jones's point. I am, none the less, grateful to John C. Rozzak, of Tunbridge Wells.

Just one quintuplet too many

A slight lapse in a recent Michael Leppman column, whether editorial or typographical, I do not know—has drawn from Arthur Ables of London SW3 a tale about Macy's, the New York department store which turned up in the column as Macy's. Whether the story is apocryphal or not, I cannot say. It seems that, round about the time of the birth of the Dionne quintuplets, a PR man who said he had acquired the exclusive merchandising rights to the girls' names, approached the president of the store and offered, for a million dollars, a highly imaginative advertising gimmick. "From Marie," he said, "you get your M. From Annette, you get your A. Cecile gives you the C, Emile the E and Yvonne the Y." The president is said to have waited a moment, to achieve the maximum dramatic effect, before replying: "Very ingenious—a wonderful idea. Unfortunately, we spell our name Macy, without the E."

Standard Deliver, the slogan of Standard Freight Forwarders, of Knightsbridge, make a good highwayman's pun over here—but I wonder what the Arabs make of it. The firm deals mainly with the Middle East.

Christians on ITV

Mr Ed's predicament is matched by that of Miss Janet Marks, of Bow, London E3, who had to reply to a solicitor who signed himself—again without typewritten clarification—with the scrawl, which I conclude this Christmas week frivolity:

Temporary dance



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A BETTER YEAR FOR ULSTER

Better, than a Christmas cruce, better far than a negotiated truce, is the evidence which has been accumulating throughout 1977, that the Provisional IRA is losing capacity to wage its guerrilla warfare in Ulster. With twelve days still to go, the numbers of killings, shootings and explosions this year are markedly lower than last year or any of the previous five years, and so are the number of incidents in most other categories of terrorism-gangsterism. There has been a complementary increase in the number of persons charged and convicted of the relevant offences.

The statistical picture is one of progressive attrition of the IRA's resources of men, money and materials. That inference is supported by such observable facts as the diminishing of funds flowing to the IRA from the United States, the ageing profile of the criminals who are caught, and the failure of the Provisionals to exploit their opportunities to make a splash during the Queen's jubilee visit to Northern Ireland, for instance, or to burn Belfast when the firemen are on strike. At the same time much of the sectarian viciousness has gone by the wayside, and the Protestant paramilitaries and murder-gangs which sprang up in response to republican violence are quiescent.

This palpable improvement in the internal security of Northern

Ireland, reflects much credit on the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the army units deployed there on their political direction by the Secretary of State, and on the people of the province whose fortitude has not failed and whose most infected communities have not altogether lost the strength to throw off the usurpation of civil authority by gunmen. After too many misjudgments and vacillations, security policy is moving along sensible lines. The RUC now has a much augmented role in the prevention and detection of crime, something policemen are better fitted for than soldiers; and the army has enlarged the extent of its covert operations, which enables it to meet the IRA units on their own ground. The intelligence systems of both forces are more comprehensive and sensitive than they were, and they command more willing cooperation from the civil community.

When counting blessings in Northern Ireland it is always prudent to remember the resilience of republican violence and the fanaticism burning at the heart of it. In the ashes of its campaign the IRA may still be able to fan a blaze. Nor is it possible to predict how long its leaders may choose to drag out the expiry of violence, which, though happily reduced, is still at a level which deprives Northern Ireland of the full benefits of civil peace.

Meanwhile Mr Mason, in pursuance of another of his responsibilities as chief of the Ulster's political instrument, has struck up the music for a third revolutionary minute. The object this time is to find out what if anything can be done in an interim sort of way to set up, by agreement, elective arrangements for the province short of the kind of thing Belfast once had and Edinburgh is being given. Everyone must wish him well in this endeavour, but he need not strain too hard.

Direct rule, as now practised is a bleak form of administration, especially for the politically active whose occupation it steals. It does not provide a permanent arrangement for a province with the home-rule experience of Northern Ireland. Nor does it provide a framework for the gradual supersession of sectarian by class or "issue" politics, or for rendering innocuous the tradition of republican violence. To that extent the criticism mounted against it from Dublin and elsewhere is to the point. But it is a useful staging post, and its usefulness has not expired. It is widely tolerated by the people experiencing it. So soon after the turbulence and fury of Ulster politics from 1968 to 1974, stopping the other fellow from getting what he demands is felt to matter more than getting what you are demanding yourself. The present form of administration matches that.

REFERENDUM MARCOS-STYLE

It has often been remarked that three hundred years of Spanish rule followed by half a century of American influence launched the Philippines into independence as a very hybrid mixture of east and west. One manifestation of this has been the record of Philippine politics, which has always had about it something of the atmosphere of a circus. There have been the elements of brashness, of an instinct for display, a panache accompanied by the risk of failure, even the narrow shaves with gasps from the audience. In such an atmosphere President Marcos has shown himself to be a supremely skilled ringmaster. He has now completed twelve years in office, the last five of them under martial law with rule by decree.

But unlike those other leaders who have resorted to states of emergency and martial law as a temporary measure, or a kind of electro-convulsive therapy for the body politic, President Marcos has shown no wish to relinquish power, and claims that he is creative, progressive and above all popular. To prove this and to give his continued rule legality he calls referendums. Yesterday's was the fifth since martial law began in 1972 and all have returned a burst of approval for his authority of around ninety per cent. The latest effort is not likely to fall short either.

It must be admitted that such a figure holds a genuine measure of popularity. As Mr Gandhi's India, corruption is lessened, efficiency increased, better order kept, and detention without trial is the handy weapon. Yet as in any Asian country, the fear of government is it always had to be on the wrong side of authority. Prudence requires assent. And when voting is compulsory that helps to rally all but the most courageously reticent.

Opposition exists of course but it is neither numerous nor of consequence. The revolutionary left of communist and Maoist persuasion has no more effective latterly under its Maoist style than it was earlier in the jungle tramp of the fifties. And to have captured the communist leader, Jose Maria Sison, in the run-up to the referendum was a piece of luck for the president. The Muslim rebellion may be disregarded as distant and irrelevant to the centre of power in Manila.

Which leaves the cause of political freedom to be most notably defended by the Roman Catholic priesthood in a country more than three-quarters Catholic, and by students who have been more active this year than in the earlier years of President Marcos's political manoeuvring. Besides, there are always distractions to absorb the spectators. The running theme has been the new society which is supposed to be taking shape before the eyes of the dazzled Filipinos. If there is criticism from outside what better than a world law conference packed with official Philippine delegates held in Manila. Or a promise of juggling with the constitution so that next year will see elections of some kind, and a switch to a parliamentary system will be President and Prime Minister at the same time. Yet the International Commission of Jurists in their report last June which found that the security reasons advanced to justify the martial law had lost their validity and the constitution seemed to be solely to maintain President Marcos in power.

And very few of the modern, big city airports in the world, most of which pride themselves publicly on being right up to date in their choice of equipment, have ground surveillance radar able to pick up moving aircraft and vehicles on a foggy day. Had that been installed at Tenerife in March, it might have saved the lives of 579 people killed when two jumbo jets collided.

There is unnecessary loss of life in airport accidents. World aviation authorities such as the International Civil Aviation Authority and the International Air Transport Association should begin an immediate review of airports and their technical facilities, and if they are dissatisfied with the facilities provided at any particular airport, the members of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots should refuse to fly there until they are improved.

The activities of the Unification Church

From Reverend Peter Wild
Sir, At Parish Communion yesterday we sang Charles Wesley's great hymn, *Lo, He comes with clouds descending* and as I roared the last line—"Thou art Lord and Thou alone"—our pastor, it seemed to me, the leaders of the Unification Church could themselves very easily clear up for us a good deal of confusion about their beliefs. This would be most useful to those such as the staff of the Enquiry Centre of the Church of England who are often asked about them.

I am therefore writing to the four men whom I know or know of as prominent members of that Church in this country, as follows:
"Mr. Radeley's letter in *The Times* of Saturday, December 17th, quoted *Time* magazine as saying: 'God is living in me and I am the incarnation of himself. The whole world is in my hand.'"
"Whether you agree that, true or false, they are incompatible with Christian belief (d) whether these things are taught anywhere in the Unification Church either in this country or elsewhere else."

Yours faithfully,
PETER WILD,
Director,
General Synod Enquiry Centre,
Church House,
Dean's Yard, Westminster SW1,
December 19.

From Mrs Dorothy Bessford
Sir, As a mother who has lost a much loved son, may I congratulate you on your splendid article by Diana Parry on the "Moonies", especially the fact that new growth in Britain.
My son Marcus, aged 25, was picked up a year ago and has been with the Unification Church ever since and is now a completely brainwashed "Moonie". Although Diana Parry was told by her that they had never heard of Marcus Bessford, in a letter written this autumn he says "Please stop the Embassy from being the nuisance you insist on being; each week they come and ask me to sign a petition for the Unification Church. I am asking you to live there. It is inconvenient, irritating and has already caused me one move to Warrs. As for being illegally here, I am a British citizen and I have been in L.A. for many years. I have contacts who can give me a passport."

Regarding brainwashing, he writes "I was a group leader in a semi-closed group. There are no other, cynical, procommunist, atheistic, journalists. In the last week of the weekend she insisted on having everyone sing an anti-war song. 'Thank God I had brainwashed her in 40 hours of love'. 'The change in them after a week is astounding!'"

A few more odd quotes from sporadic letters to us from a fortnight ago: "I rise at 6 am and go to bed at midnight if I have time." "My work is often pure drudgery. We do a lot of social work, collect rubbish, clean hotel floors, work on the streets, and so on. It is just to achieve the frame of mind—giving for others." "Also done some fund raising (ie. street collecting), we have people regularly making 400 doors a day."

"Each person has a goal of finding one new member per month—this means talking to something in the region of 80 people per day. Yes, it is a bit crazy. I sent my son to a group leader in a semi-closed group. There are no other, cynical, procommunist, atheistic, journalists. In the last week of the weekend she insisted on having everyone sing an anti-war song. 'Thank God I had brainwashed her in 40 hours of love'. 'The change in them after a week is astounding!'"

"People who've been in the movement just a few years—you can't argue with them; they're never jealous, or greedy; they're meaningful, and their commitment doesn't reside there at all."

In short, the perfect "Moonie" is just a brainwashed zombie like poor Tony mentioned in Monday's article (December 12).
That my son no longer writes me or my husband, after months of search, anguish, compassion, I told him what I thought of his "cult" since when silence.
Yours sincerely,
DOROTHY BESSFORD,
Nether Wallop, Hampshire.

Continuation of the Lib-Lab pact

From Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, QC
Sir, I note from your front page report of the meeting of the Liberal peers last Thursday that all except one of the 14 Liberal peers attending rejected continuation of the Lib-Lab pact as decided upon by the Leader of the Liberal Party, David Steel, MP.

As I was unable for business reasons to attend this meeting, I feel that as a Joint Treasurer of the party and a former President, I should make it clear that I personally approve of David Steel's attitude as Leader of the party in supporting the Lib-Lab pact for the present.

I had informed him of my view prior to his afternoon meeting with the Prime Minister as many recent contacts indicated that large sections of industry felt that by his action he was bringing stability to government and therefore to industry and should be supported at the present time.

Yours faithfully,
LOYD OF KILGERAN,
House of Lords,
December 16.

From Mr Jeffrey Roberts
Sir, Your leader of December 15, and Mr Richard Lamb's letter of the same date, entirely miss the electoral significance of the Parliamentary Liberal Party's failure to end the Lib-Lab Pact and turn out the Government. It may well be true that the public at large has little interest in either Europe or fair voting. But the public know that the Liberal Party care deeply about Europe and the fair representation of public opinion in Parliament. On Wednesday last the public saw that the Liberal Party lacked the courage to turn round and fight.

The British "respect" courage, especially in those who appear to be all but dead, I hope that once David Steel and his Parliamentary colleagues have had the chance to escape the incandescent and debilitating atmosphere of Westminster, they will be ready to lead the Liberal Party into its only means of defence: Attack.

Yours faithfully,
J. ROBERTS,
2 Albion Terrace,
Battersea, S.W.8,
December 18.

From Lord Rochester
Sir, In view of your report (December 16) on the meeting of Liberal peers, may I say that I have been in favour of the Lib-Lab pact for the following reasons:
1. Liberals entered into the pact last spring in the national interest to provide stable government and to help wages against inflation. This was a patriotic duty and now that the pact has expired, it is the duty of the Liberal Party to provide a clear commitment on this point and it does not therefore provide an adequate reason for withdrawal from the pact now.

2. In my view the economic and industrial situation in this country is such that a large number of people are in a state of despair and that even with Liberal Party support the present Government will not be willing to carry them through. That would be the time for judgment by Liberals and indeed the country at large. Meanwhile the

Lib-Lab pact must be preserved as the nearest approach to a wider political consensus that can be achieved. If the pact is sustained the Liberal Party will eventually be seen to have led the way towards this national consensus and will thereby gain public esteem.

3. In David Steel Liberals have found a leader of vision and courage who in the past nine months has enabled us actually to influence events. If he is now disavowed, what alternative strategy and leadership will we have to put before the electorate that are more credible and patriotic than his?

Yours faithfully,
ROCHESTER,
House of Lords,
December 16.

From Mr R. S. Rowntree
Sir, As both a former Liberal parliamentary candidate and a member of the National Committee for Electoral Reform, I find it impossible to join those in the Liberal Party who would seek to break the Lib-Lab pact on account of the result of the free vote in the House of Commons on the method of direct elections to the European Assembly. I believe the pact to have been a genuine response to last year's national economic crisis and that Mr Steel is therefore right in insisting that the electorate would condemn the breaking of it on account of such a secondary consideration as that of the voting system to be applied to only one election for the European Assembly. The real significance of the House of Commons vote lies in the fact that in providing for the use of the single transferable vote in Northern Ireland in an election involving the whole of the United Kingdom, Mr Steel has demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt the need for proportional representation throughout Britain.

Proportional representation for Northern Ireland is generally accepted as essential because of the recognition that the province is politically divided in such a way as to make elections on the first past the post basis counterproductive for the harmonious working of a free society. Our past war economic failure has shown that in a different way the whole of Britain is equally divided and that our conventional electoral pattern is at best contributing to our economic ills and at worst to the breaking up of the cohesion of our community.

I am not a socialist but, like I imagine most other people, I am prepared to work to help make a success of a socialist society if it is shown that the majority of one's fellow citizens are in favour of such a course. What I find intolerable is the steady drift towards an inefficient socialism when only a minority of the electorate are in favour of it. I am therefore at a loss to understand their opposition to an electoral system that provides against such an eventuality. Surely they do not really believe that it is either desirable or practical for this country to accept permanent one party rule? If not, would those Conservatives who oppose proportional representation please explain clearly what are their alternatives to help the electorate decide to whom they should entrust the government of this country?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD S. ROWNTREE,
Knightsbridge,
North Yorkshire,
December 14.

As usual in the last 10 days before Christmas, my invoicing, and despatch departments are slack. Despite our best efforts to tell the trade and public that this is a publisher's despatch by return right up to the afternoon of December 23 (we have a 24-hour answering service for the trade, make our representatives ever available, accept telephone credit orders, and will despatch books to any address and the invoice to another, indeed do anything reasonable including discussing the fascination of rival narrow gauge railways) business has dried up. By November 25 each year some bookshelves start rattling customers it is "too late", often irrespective of the service of the publisher concerned; we are all lumped together as black sheep. So thousands are turned away from giving books. It is the non-run part of publishing.

Yours urgently,
DAVID ST JOHN THOMAS,
Chairman, David & Charles, Brunel House, Fords Road, Newton Abbot, Devon.

From Mr David St John Thomas
Sir, Mr Cable (December 16) is right in saying that publishers have warehouses full of books and we would be delighted to see ours emptied and the volumes read and enjoyed. But

Public sector salaries

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter
Sir, May I, as one who up to earlier this year had an interest, as Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, but who as such saw close-up the problems created by the Government's mishandling of the pay of members of nationalized boards, congratulate you on your admirably firm article "No rise since 1972" and now 5 per cent" (December 17).

But there are two further points which are worth bringing out. In the case of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and of one or two other bodies, the full time executive board members are some many cases former civil servants who had transferred to the boards from the Civil Service. Their starting pay related closely, though on the low side, to that of their colleagues who had remained in the service. But whereas the Government applied the full Top Salary Review Board (TSRB) recommendations to civil servants up to £13,000 a year plus half of any difference between that figure and the recommended one to all the civil servants concerned, it refused any rise to those former civil servants who had joined the board. As a result a discrimination was shown by the fact that in cases where the civil servants received less than the amount recommended by the TSRB, they were granted the important concession that their pensions should be computed on the basis that they were receiving the full recommended figure. By contrast the board members, as civil servants, were not granted this concession, so that their pensions would be permanently the full effects of the Government's action.

The other contrast is with their own staffs. By way of example, a former officer of the CAA was "promoted" a year or two ago both to a crucially important appointment as Controller of Safety and as a member of the board of the Authority. As a result he today receives not only a salary a year less than his subordinate who replaced him in his former official post but less also than that subordinate's subordinate. And the Government cannot argue that this is because the CAA was lucky in its salaries. These are linked to those of the Civil Service. One effect of this ludicrously inefficient state of affairs has been that another officer promoted to a top post in the Authority has declined to accept it, and has declined board membership.

It would seem at first sight that a Government dedicated to expansion of the public sector should single out the treatment of those on whom it depends for running it. It is, however, an open secret that this is not the case. The fact that it is often in relatively small matters that governments, like individuals, give away significant indications of the basic meanness of their character.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROYD-CARPENTER,
House of Lords,
December 19.

Rudolf Hess
From Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East (Conservative)
Sir, The denial of even an additional half-hour of visiting time to Rudolf Hess's wife at Christmas—and to celebrate his golden wedding—is a further insult to the dignity of a man who has been in custody since 1945. Looking back on it in future years, the western allies will surely be deeply ashamed that they did not overrule this utterly cruel Soviet obstinacy and released Rudolf Hess years ago. Thus will our national sense of moral superiority be damaged in the future.

How many times will it need to be repeated that this broken, hopeless figure from the past left the Third Reich before that regime's worst excesses and barbarities ended? He has not been locked up in quasi-solid confinement for nearly forty years?

Even if it were comprehensible, it would not be possible to address such a man, a member of the State Department, the Foreign Office and the Quai d'Orsay on this tragic aftermath of the war.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH DYKES,
House of Commons,
December 19.

From the same school
From Dr N. M. Horsfall
Sir, William Mason, writing to Horace Walpole (July 2, 1782), observed: "There was a bishop, I think it was Sprat, who thanked God that though he was not educated at Westminster, yet he became a bishop." Sprat died in 1713 and had lived another five years his remark might have been yet more acerbic: 1718, or there abouts, marked the high point of Westminster domination of the Bench of Bishops: in that year Bath and Wells, Winchester (and had Trelawny died? Indeed not!), Exeter, Rochester (Sprat's successor, Atterbury), Chester, Bristol, Kildare and the archbishopric of Tuam were all filled by pupils of Richard Busby.

The Bishop of Norwich (December 13) may find my answer to his challenge of merely antiquarian interest, but he did not specify any limits of time and area.

Christmas on ITV

From Mr Iain R. Redpath
Sir, It was clear at the ITV Christmas programmes press conference that Pat Fox's references to the need for a bit of religion on Christmas evening was an aside, a light hearted, albeit irreverent, seasonal joke, a preface to his invitation to us journalists to join him at the bar.

I hope that we may allow even ITV programme directors their little bit of fun without elevating their every reported remark to the unreasonable status of *bon mots* exemplaires.
Yours faithfully,
IAN R. REDPATH,
The Times,
New Printing House Square,
Gray's Inn Road, W.C1,
December 14.

accept the invitation to visit the school himself and observe Mr Cohen's methods.
As members of the school's governing body we have first-hand experience of Mr Cohen's outstanding ability to guide young choreographers and composers, an ability which was confirmed in his direction of the Gubbenkian National Choreographic School last summer. We considered his work so very successful on that occasion that we have invited him again next year and we are very glad to announce that he has, in principle, accepted.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BRINSON,
MAUDE LLOYD,
NOEL GOODWIN,
PETER WILLIAMS,
GALE LAW,
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation,
Lebanon, United Kingdom and Commonwealth Branch,
98 Portland Place, W1.

Commission did not want it to be published.
The document is important because it sets out why the Commission believes that President Carter's policies on, for example, the deterrence of commercial repression of protesters will be serious repercussions for the Commission. It goes on to explain why the Commission believes that the situation in the Community is very different from that of the United States and why the Commission "must be asked with the development of nuclear energy".

Whether it is now for Mr Brunner to write to member states saying that whenever confidentiality applied when the document was written in May now no longer applies, or for Mr Benn to write to Mr Brunner asking if he may now reveal the document before Parliament? We do not know.
Yours faithfully,
NIGEL HAIGH,
Vice-President,
European Environmental Bureau,
Yverstraten 31,
B-1040 Brussels.

From the Leader of the Inner London Education Authority
Sir, As a "responsible research worker in the field" to use his own phrase, Professor Rex (December 13) has done a good job in explaining what he means by "the largely segregated primary and secondary schools in the inner city". Who is being segregated from or by whom and where is his evidence?

I am not an interpreter of government. White Papers but I can speak from direct experience of the planning that follows them. So far as the White Paper on Inner Cities is concerned, the need to provide employment opportunities for young people from every ethnic group, with particular emphasis on those experiencing the greatest problems, has been central to the planning over the past few months. To suggest otherwise is nonsense.
Yours faithfully,
ASHLEY BRAMALL,
Leader of the ILEA,
The County Hall, SEL.

The Star of Bethlehem

From the Bishop of Kingston
Sir, The Three Wise Men from the West mentioned by your Religious Affairs Correspondent today (December 12) are by no means the first to seek in Chinese records for the possibility of the Star of Bethlehem. Munter first drew attention to this possibility in *Der Stern der Weisen* (Copenhagen, 1827). In an article in *Novum Testamentum* (Vol. 4, 1960, p. 141) a note was contributed by Dr Joseph Needham, FRS, who had researched Chinese records. He pointed out that K. R. Lindbergh in *Actes du Vile Congrès d'histoire des Sciences* (Paris, 1953) regards it as possible that the Chinese reference which you cite related to the Star of Bethlehem and Dr P. J. M. Messager calculated that the point of the sky near the Aquilae (Ho-Ku constellation in the Chinese record) is visible from the latitude of Palestine and Babylonia for part of every night except for a period at the end of January and beginning of February, when the sun is in that region of the sky.

Your article does not point out the further mention of a comet (without a date) noticed in the following year BC4, according to *Chien Han Shu*, XI, p. 66.
Yours faithfully,
HUGH KINGSTON,
White Lodge,
23 Belgrave Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW17,
December 12.

Sale of pornography

From Mr E. R. Shackleton
Sir, Referring to the letter from Mr Taylor (December 7), may I assure your many readers that there is not a word in Scripture to suggest that harlots, still less child pornographers, enter the Kingdom of Heaven unless they repent and abandon their way of life. The next verse (Matthew xxi 32) makes this very plain. The harlots repented when they heard the preaching of John the Baptist and, therefore, entered the Kingdom. The Pharisees heard the same preaching but did not repent of their self-righteousness. This scripture has been misquoted once too often.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD SHACKLETON,
The Flat,
Cobb's Farm,
North Moreton,
Near Didcot, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Jeffrey Hamm
Sir, Mrs Lena Jeger (December 15) referred to the record of William Joyce in the war and stated he was a member of the British Union of Fascists. In fact, he was expelled from that organization in March, 1937, two and a half years before the war began.
Yours truly,
JEFFREY HAMM,
76a Rochester Row, SW1.

Contemporary dance

From Mr Peter Brinson and others
Sir, Your critic's review of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre in your issue of November 29 includes a damaging reference to Robert Cohen's direction of the 1977 Gubbenkian National Choreographic Summer School, quoting misleadingly in incomplete form out of context from an article by an observer in residence.

Mr Percival is, of course, entitled to his own view, but we should like to stress that in this case it appears to be based on second-hand information. So far as we know he did not



Trading profits of companies at £3,009m peak for quarter

By Melvyn Westlake

Trading profits of British companies have increased substantially in recent months in spite of the depressed level of economic activity according to preliminary figures published yesterday. There was a rise of 23 per cent in gross trading profits between the second and third quarters of this year, measured in money terms and after deducting stock appreciation.

This took profits to more than £3,000m for the first time in any single quarter. The actual figure was £3,009m, and continues the steady recovery that began in the middle of last year.

The third quarter rise was substantially higher than the increase of 7.9 per cent and 10.9 per cent recorded in the first and second quarters of 1977.

One result has been a striking shift in the proportion of the nation's total domestic income accounted for respectively by profits and income from employment, fully restoring the position that prevailed before the wage explosion of 1974 and the collapse in profits which followed.

The reason for the improvement appears to be, at least partly, the widespread delay by large groups of workers in agreeing to wage settlements. Only a small proportion of the number of workers who would normally have settled by now have actually done so. This is because each group is waiting to see what emerges as the typical level of wage increase in the present bargaining round.

However, because wages and salaries commonly represent two-thirds or three-quarters of production costs, the effect of this delay has apparently been to swell corporate profits. This strongly suggests that when there is a big rush to make wage settlements, profits will correspondingly weaken, particularly as settlements will inevitably involve substantial back payments of pay.

In readiness for this, companies are probably investing their profits in short-term financial assets.

In the meantime, gross trading profits have begun to represent a rapidly rising proportion of total domestic income. In the third quarter, this proportion reached 9.4 per cent, compared with 7.9 per cent in the early summer and less than 5 per cent during the trough in 1974.

The converse of this is that income from employment has edged down, as a proportion of total domestic income, to 67.5 per cent in the late summer, compared with over 71 per cent two years earlier.

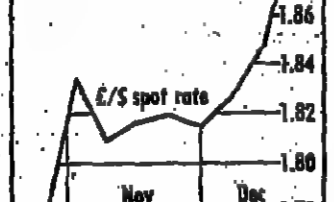
The broad picture for the state sector is similar. Yesterday's figures show a rise of 5.6 per cent in the gross trading surplus of state corporations.

This comes against the background of continuing depressed business activity, as yesterday's government figures confirm. Total output is shown to have picked up in the July-September period, compared with the previous three months, but remains little better than in the early months of the year.

Even this small improvement appears to be largely the result of a good harvest, and owes virtually nothing to the industrial sector, which remained depressed.

Although consumers' expenditure recovered by about 13 per cent in the third quarter, this was not reflected in higher output. The reason is that many purchasers chose to run down their stocks—built up involuntarily in earlier months—rather than increase production.

This is borne out by the fall of 3.7 per cent in the value of stocks in any quarter for more than a year, and followed a sharp £203m rise in stocks during the second quarter.



Table, page 16

Pound soars against the dollar

By David Blake

The pound rose nearly two pence against the dollar yesterday in thin trading to close at \$1.8735. This is sterling's highest rate against the dollar since April 1, 1976.

Sterling also rose against other currencies to end the day with its effective exchange rate at 54.1 per cent of its 1971 parity, the highest level recorded since the beginning of November.

Commercial buying in the morning buoyed the pound, which had a pronounced effect because there were few people active in the market.

By the afternoon, the dollar had started to show clear signs of weakening against central bank currencies, closing two and a half pence down against the mark and more than three pence down against the Swiss franc.

The announcement of a 5 per cent target for money supply growth in Switzerland

joined to a Sunderland office. These offices are designed to deal with the more specialised needs of business and professional customers. Similar developments will take place in Southampton.

Financial Editor, page 15

Midland's date for streamline test

Midland Bank's pilot scheme to streamline its banking services in the Newcastle upon Tyne region will begin on January 3. Six branches in the Tyne-side area will be linked to a Newcastle office and five branches in Wearside will be

Protectionist move instituted under Gatt anti-dumping provisions EEC puts floor price on foreign steel

From Michael Horvath, Brussels, Dec 19

EEC member states agreed here tonight to introduce a minimum price for steel imports from the beginning of next year so as to prevent undercutting of Community manufacturers by foreign competitors. The price will be enforced for at least three months, and possibly longer.

In the meantime the European Commission has been authorised to try to persuade the EEC's main steel suppliers to agree voluntarily to observe minimum import prices linked to the guideline prices in operation on the Community's domestic market.

It is hoped that these negotiations can be completed by the end of next March. If satisfactory "voluntary" agreements have not been negotiated by then, however, the mandatory minimum import price will remain in force indefinitely.

Under tonight's agreement the EEC will fix a basic price for steel imports related to the production costs of the most efficient foreign producers in normal competitive conditions, which at present are the Japanese. Imports from the Community below this level will be immediately subject to an anti-dumping duty.

On the face of it, there appears to be very little difference between the EEC's measures and the trigger price mechanism for steel imports proposed in the United States, which is still awaiting President Carter's approval.

Community officials insisted tonight, however, that the European measures would be legal under the anti-dumping

provisions of article 8 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The Americans, they said, were taking action under national anti-dumping procedures.

Last week, Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC Commissioner responsible for Industrial Policy, said the commission was opposed to anything like a trigger price system for the EEC because of the damage which protectionist retaliation might do to the Community's interests as a net steel exporter.

Speaking for Britain, Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said of the commission's proposal: "It sounds like a very good scheme. Why don't we give it a try for a couple of months?" But Mr Jean-François Deniau, France's Secretary of State for European Affairs, said his government wanted agreement now on a permanent trigger price mechanism.

The existing guideline prices, covering a range of rolled products, are to be raised by 15 per cent next year in 10 per cent instalments, the first on January 1 and the second on April 1. Mandatory minimum prices for concrete reinforcing bars will be maintained at their present level.

In an attempt to counter undercutting of minimum rebars prices by small, low-cost manufacturers in the Brescia region of Italy, dealers and merchants may be asked to accept an obligation not to buy rebars at less than the legal price. But there are doubts whether such a requirement can be reinforced.

In separate discussions, Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, made clear Britain's difficulties in accepting in full the agreements on textile imports negotiated by the Commission with more than 30 supplier countries.

On these agreements hinges the ability of the EEC to agree to a renewal of the Gatt Multi-Fibre Arrangement by the end of the year.

In the case of four countries, India, Pakistan, Brazil and Egypt, the Commission could get agreement only by going beyond the terms of its brief from member states concerning imports of cotton yarn and cotton cloth.

Mr Dell said acceptance of these agreements as they stood could mean the loss of 2,000 jobs in Britain's textile industry during the next five years.

Discussions are to be continued tomorrow morning.

Whitehall talks on Comecon exports

Britain is attempting to curb imports of steel from the Soviet Union and other Eastern block countries next year in view of the British Steel Corporation's huge losses and expected further weakening of market conditions (Peter Hill writes).

The negotiations being conducted by the Department of Trade, supported by the Department of Industry, have reached an advanced stage with most Comecon countries.

A key target is the Soviet Union, whose iron and steel shipments to Britain have risen from £7.2m last year to £12.2m in the first 10 months of this year. Poland is another supplier which the BSC wants to see restrained.

Tussaud's valued at £11.6m as ATV joins takeover battle

By Richard Allen

Lord Grade's Associated Television Corporation last night launched a surprise counterbid for control of Tussaud's, owner of the London waxworks museum.

ATV's offer of 55p a share in cash values Tussaud's at £11.6m and is 10p higher than the cash offer made for the group last month by S. Pearson & Son which has been rejected by Tussaud's board.

A spokesman for Tussaud's said last night: "At the moment we have no comment to make. We have not had the formal documents from the company's advisers, Brown Shipley & Co, warned shareholders to take no action until the board has met. S. Pearson was also not prepared to comment on the new development.

Lord Grade's waxwork effigy is on show at Tussaud's. Last night he joked: "I wonder why I want to buy the company, I want to change the figure."

In September he announced that his group was on the look-out for takeover opportunities with a view to building an entertainment group which was a "solid rock".

Subsequently the group which has just announced interim pre-

tax profits of over £5m launched a rights issue to raise £9.1m.

A spokesman for ATV said last night that the group had looked at Tussaud's before the S. Pearson bid was launched and notified the Tussaud's board of its possible interest soon after the first offer was made.

However, there have as yet been no discussions between the two boards. ATV already holds a stake in Tussaud's of just under 3 per cent.

As well as the straight cash bid, ATV is offering shareholders the alternative of a cash and share mix comprising three of its own "A" ordinary shares and 20p cash for every 11 Tussaud's ordinary.

The ATV offer came only a few hours after most Tussaud's shareholders received the official document rejecting the Pearson bid, mainly on the grounds that the company valued its independence and had sufficient financial strength to carry out its own expansion.

On the basis of the Tussaud's board's own profits forecast of £1.65m the ATV offer represents a 20 per cent increase in value, fractionally under 15 Tussaud's shares closed unchanged ahead of the new bid at 52p.

Financial Editor, page 15

Wilkinson Match stake sold at £17m

By Bryan Appleyard

An American company has bought almost one third of Wilkinson Match, the British matches-to-rasor blades group, for £16.9m.

The 6.5 million shares, representing 29 per cent of the company, were sold by Swedish Match to Allegheny Ludlum Industries of Pittsburgh at 25p per share compared with last night's closing price of 20p, up 14p on the day.

Swedish Match is to remain a 3.9 per cent stake and it will keep one of its two directors on the board.

Mr Christopher Lewinton, Wilkinson's managing director, said the Americans had approached Swedish Match and Wilkinson.

Mr Lewinton said he welcomed this new involvement with a high quality American company and his company would be looking at ways to strengthen existing trading links. There would be no change



Mr Christopher Lewinton: aim to strengthen trading links.

in the trading relationship with Swedish Match. Wilkinson said to have no intention of making a full offer for Wilkinson and the fact that its stake is under 20 per cent means that the Takeover Panel rules do not require it to do so.

The American company is mainly involved in the manufacture of special metals and alloys, as well as sports and sporting goods. It recently acquired Chemtron Corporation which is in areas related to Wilkinson's.

Spink goes for £5m cash to shipping insurance group

By Michael Prest

The mysterious bidder for Spink & Son, the coin and fine art dealers, has at last been identified as Andrew Weir & Co, the private shipping insurance and investment group.

Weir's offer of £5m in cash for Spink was accepted yesterday. The terms are 400p for each ordinary share, suspended last week at 255p, and 40p for each non-cumulative preference share.

Spink is valued by the offer at approximately double its last capitalization or about 10 times the forecast earnings per share. Spink directors are predicting profits of £1m for the year about to end, compared with £805,000 last year.

Weir had over £6m in cash in the last accounts. In September it paid £1.4m for 7.94 per cent of the equity in Wilmar Breeden, the motor component manufacturers.

Mr Andrew Fawcett, Weir's finance director, says that buy ing Spink will raise the group's average return on capital employed of about 9.5 per cent by increasing pre-tax profits by almost 20 per cent. Weir's profit last year was £11m. Turnover was £70.8m.

But Weir has no intention of becoming a conglomerate. "We are using only a small part of our available funds," Mr Fawcett said. Weir owns 44 ships and has another nine on order at a cost of £73m.

No change of direction at Spink is envisaged. One or two non-executive directors appointed by Weir will join the board.

Mr G. M. Magan from Morgan Grenfell, who advised Weir, points out that Spink was undercapitalized and conservatively valued. If stocks and property were included at a more recent valuation and deferred tax of £1.2m is taken into account, the apparent premium over assets does not look so high.

Shawcross attack on bribes vote

By Malcolm Brown

Lord Shawcross, Secretary of State for Scotland, attacked the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in the House of Commons today in the fight against bribery and corruption. He also pointed the finger at powerful, but as yet unnamed individuals in France, Germany and Belgium for combining to try and wreck the work of his international commission to corrupt.

The commission was set up by the ICC two years ago to make recommendations on how international business could fight bribery. At a meeting in Paris on November 23, the council of the ICC adopted a much watered-down version of the recommendations.

Officials of the ICC in Paris, told of Lord Shawcross's strictures, declined to comment. From the start the French participated in the commission's work only under protest, and made no secret of the fact that they thought the whole approach was hypocritical and ill-conceived.

While details of the final vote at the ICC council meeting which adopted the watered-down code are not known, it is believed that several West European countries chose to abstain. This would greatly undermine the force of the ICC code in those countries.

Tension in Caracas as ministers recall 1975 kidnap by terrorists

From Roger Vielvoye, Caracas, Dec 19

Two years have elapsed since the terrorist gang led by Carlos, a Venezuelan by birth, broke into the Vienna headquarters of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and kidnapped the assembled ministers.

Memories of the raid and the flight to freedom in Algiers are still fresh in the minds of many of the hostesses, who now demand and receive total security when they meet.

Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabia's oil minister and the prime target for murder by Carlos had a severe operation, still refuses to visit the scene

of the raid. And as long as the deeply superstitious Saudi minister is in the city, the OAS will be unable to hold its annual meeting in Caracas.

After testing the security services of Switzerland, Indonesia, Qatar and Sweden, the OAS entourage has now reached Venezuela, one of the founding countries of the organization and security measures here are being tightened.

With each report, the pressure has mounted on the OAS to block the hole that the strangers inadvertently punched in the security cordon.

They strolled through the outward looking security screen. From behind loading docks and warehouses appeared to block the hole that the strangers inadvertently punched in the security cordon.

They strolled through the outward looking security screen. From behind loading docks and warehouses appeared to block the hole that the strangers inadvertently punched in the security cordon.

Opec 'unlikely to use oil weapon again'

Continued from page 1

A: Not at all. The surplus in the market is caused by the willingness of Saudi Arabia to produce more than its financial needs. And since we leave the minimum level of production flexible, subject to the market forces to determine, there will be no danger facing Opec.

Q: All forecasts which can be taken seriously are of the opinion that the energy requirements of the world will be tripled by the year 2000. In spite of all economy measures, don't you think that this will result in a wasteful exploitation of oil reserves, as there would be sufficient coal and nuclear energy supplies to cover the excess demand?

will Opec then have to develop a quota-cum-with severe quantity controls, as the interests of the individual member states, perhaps of Saudi Arabia or Iran, differ from one another?

A: It is difficult now to predict what will be the policy of the various oil producers in their ways to meet the consumers' demands. However, the political factors will definitely be important.

Q: Europe has utilized refinery capacity of about 250 million tons. Is it therefore convenient for the Opec countries to begin to set up export refineries in their own countries?

A: Most of the European refineries capacity needs upgrading, in order to have a better yield and flexibility to accept heavy crudes, and therefore the export refineries in the producing countries will have a better competitive position and will replace some of those refineries in Europe which will be phased out.

Q: Why do the Opec countries hesitate on participating in joint ventures, for example in refineries in Europe, to run

beside the crude oil and production operations?

A: Because we want to have refineries in our countries and for the reasons explained in the previous answer.

Q: It has often been reported that the international oil companies were the real spiritus rector for the explosion of oil prices during the winter of 1973-74. Is there any proof to refute this rather definitive and negative statement?

A: International oil companies made a huge profit in 1973 and 1974 due to the sharp increases in oil prices and the producing governments' corrective action to increase the rate of taxes and the level of royalties, and it is fair to say that the oil companies have nothing to do with the decision to increase the oil price.

Q: Motorists in Europe have already forgotten the shortage of petrol and the driving ban on Sundays and are stepping on the accelerator again. But you once justified the price policy of Opec, the principle that it would have a restrictive effect on oil consumption. Is this philosophy still valid?

A: Yes, but it seems that the level of the present price is not high enough to restrain the excessive use of gasoline.

Q: During the North-South dialogue some raw material producers discussed forming an association like Opec which would allow them to control output and to increase prices as a cartel. Don't you think that this would mean the end of free international trade?

A: To start with, not every producer of raw materials can form a cartel to control prices. Opec is a unique case and we do not forget that Opec was formed in 1960 and was not able to decide on prices until 1973, when supplies became much less compared with demand and were mostly controlled by member countries. Anyway, the concept of freedom of international trade should not be discussed within the framework of raw materials. This concept is ignored by most industrialized countries which does great harm to trade and finance.

Q: Can you imagine that Opec would once more use its oil as a political weapon?

A: All the present indications lead me to say: "No."

The Times index: 200.19 + 0.04

The FT index: 469.8 - 2.1

How the markets moved

Rises			
A. Bell	20p to 215p	Mount Lyall	2p to 12p
Caracas Int	9p to 75p	Peterson R	4p to 31p
Cater Ryder	8p to 30p	Peak Int	1p to 5p
Churchbury	5p to 24p	Sotheby	1p to 20p
Gerrard & Nat	8p to 14p	Textured Jersey	1p to 25p
Intergroup	5p to 8p	Wilkinson Match	14p to 20p
Johnson-Richds	18p to 33p	York Trader	4p to 65p
Falls			
Brown J	8p to 23p	SA Land	3p to 64p
Davies & New	6p to 10p	Sedg Forbes	5p to 35p
De La Rue	8p to 51p	Shaw Carpets	4p to 21p
Lex Services	3p to 72p	Sutcliffe S'man	2p to 35p
Oil Refiner	8p to 20p	Textured Jersey	1p to 15p
Plessey	5p to 9p	Versencing Ref	5p to 105p
Preedy A	3p to 75p	Wrighton F	1p to 22p
Equities were idle.			
Gilt-edged securities rose again.			
Dollar premium 91.5 per cent (effective rate 37.73 per cent).			
Sterling gained 185 pts to \$1.8735.			
The effective exchange rate index was at 64.1.			
Commodities: Reuter's index was at 1417.0 (previous 1421.4).			
Reports, pages 16 and 17			

On other pages

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THE POUND			
	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.88	1.88	1.88
Austria Sch	30.00	28.00	28.00
Belgium Fr	65.00	62.00	62.00
Canada \$	2.28	2.03	2.03
Denmark Kr	11.33	10.83	10.83
Finland Mk	7.53	7.60	7.60
France Fr	9.12	8.80	8.80
Germany Dm	4.14	3.92	3.92
Greece Dr	77.10	73.50	73.50
Italy L	8.95	8.50	8.50
Japan Yn	163.00	158.00	158.00
Netherlands Gld	4.48	4.26	4.26
Norway Kr	11.33	10.83	10.83
Portugal Esc	50.00	75.00	75.00
S. Africa Rd	1.90	1.78	1.78
Spain Pes	159.75	153.75	153.75
Sweden Kr	9.50	8.75	8.75
Switzerland Fr	2.99	2.77	2.77
US \$	1.90	1.85	1.85
Yugoslavia Dr	37.00	34.50	34.50
Rates for small denominations bank notes.			
Bank of England International Ltd. bank notes are available in all major currencies.			

INTERIM STATEMENT

Unaudited results of the Group for the 26 weeks ended 28th October, 1977:

	half year 1977	half year 1976
Sales	11,249	10,148
of which direct exports	2,325	3,320
Transit	359	740
depreciation	497	342
interest	156	140
Profit/(loss) before taxation	(304)	258
transfer from/(provision for) deferred taxation	150	(134)
Profit/(loss) after taxation	(154)	124
Dividends:		
preference	14	16
interim ordinary	nil	77

More of the loss was incurred in the first four months, since when there has been a marked improvement in performance and this is being maintained in the second half of the financial year.

With depreciation of nearly £500,000 and minimal capital expenditure, liquidity has improved. There is no major capital expenditure planned in the second half and liquidity should continue to improve.

The directors anticipate the company to operate profitably during the second half.

Institute of Chartered Secretaries & Administrators

At the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, held yesterday at 20 Aldermanbury, London, E.C.2, the President, Mr. John Phillips, commented: "The new constitution of our government's programme has been launched by the Institute on which we have balanced in economic nature. Reduction of the rate of inflation, improvement of our balance of payments position, and the strengthening of the pound, have never before been experienced side by side with the steady and noticeable expansion of our economy, and with a little hope of national control of prices and incomes."

In this situation the Institute, of course, concerned very much with the position of the professional man and woman who have found very badly the erosion of their standards of life. Accordingly it was entirely appropriate that the Institute should have made detailed and thorough representations to the government on the taxation position of the professional man and woman. The Institute's programme is little better than they were twelve months ago.

Even more important is that we should recover and secure the proper degree of recognition for the service that the professional administrator provides, in common with other professions. This contribution of the

John Phillips, CBE, I.C.S.A., F.C.S.

professional man and woman, must be recognised by the rest of public service and adherence to standards of conduct which transcend the requirements of the law, continues largely to be unshared by the government in their transactions with the public.

As for the professional administrator, almost every month some new development occurs in law and practice which makes it imperative that the public interest of the professional man and woman should be kept in mind. The Institute's programme is little better than they were twelve months ago.

Even more important is that we should recover and secure the proper degree of recognition for the service that the professional administrator provides, in common with other professions. This contribution of the

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Interest rates and banking competition

There were at best conflicting signs in yesterday's economic news about the outlook for interest rates. On the one hand sterling continued to gain ground, partly in response to the West German measures last week to restrain the inflow of speculative money which suggests that the dollar's weakness will find its outlet more and more in fewer and fewer safe currencies like the yen, Swiss franc and increasingly sterling. If the authorities are to adhere to the monetary targets, the lid will need to be kept on interest rates.

On the other hand, however, the earnings figures were rather worse than expected indicating slippage in the Government's pay guidelines even before this winter's bargaining round with the big unions so the prospect here is for higher rates, especially at the long end.

With the money markets a week ago pointing to a fall in minimum lending rate until the Bank of England stepped in to say it saw no reason for any change in interest rates before the end of the year, it is

ATV, with its substantial film-making, television and promotional interests, has wide experience in leisure, but it is unlikely that this offer will be the end of the story. Pearson certainly has the capacity to come back with higher terms if it wants to and other bidders may well come into the open now. But Fussard's now has permission to raise its dividend to 3.71p a share for 1977 where the yield on ATV's is 6.4 per cent, and it still has a 1978 forecast up its sleeve. As I have said before this is a business which will almost certainly demand a premium price at the end of the day.

Auditing

Midland arguments

A submission on audit reports to the accountancy profession's Auditing Practices Committee from the Midlands' Industry Group of Finance Group, industrial consideration. The group is concerned that the impact of qualified audit reports is dulled by over frequent use when only technical breaches of accounting standards have occurred. This problem has been considered by APC in its attempts to bring out standards which will be generally accepted both within profession and industry. The profession's solution was to standardize the wording of auditors' reports so that it would be clear whether the qualification was over a technical matter or an uncertainty (such as a difference of opinion over a property value).

The Midlands group suggests that technical breaches of accounting standards where the auditors themselves may feel that departure from accounting standards is applicable in the circumstances should be dealt with in a note on companies' accounting policies. There would then be no need for any qualification.

This would increase the discretionary power of the auditor, but it would prevent qualifications appearing when it was neither the company nor the accounts which were at fault, but inadequate drafting of a standard. The problem is that such a move could reduce the weight of accounting standards generally. A standard may have faults but silly qualifications at least have the merit of quickly drawing attention to the fact.

Still the Midlands group's idea is a development of an International Accounting Standard. Its merit is simplicity. The best people to comment on its usefulness would be users of accounts. After all, audit reports are essential reading. Statements of accounting policies come lower in the range of priorities.

● A good deal of speculative froth has been whipped up around H. & R. Johnson, Richard's Tiles recently. In May London Brick set the ball rolling when it disclosed a near 10 per cent stake while the sudden death of Mr. Derek Johnson, the chairman, in September added to the uncertainty since the last accounts showed him holding 8 per cent of the equity.

However, yesterday's interim figures suggest that any would-be savior may have left it too late. Profits rose by 41 per cent to £2.5m on sales up by 19 per cent. Almost all of this improvement came from the United Kingdom in spite of static volume. The overseas total contribution was stagnant reflecting continued problems in Canada, the United States, Australia and South Africa.

With far-reaching changes being made in the company structure aimed at tightening financial controls of the overseas subsidiaries and the reasonable prospect of a pick-up in British building activity next year, the immediate future looks bright.

So now seems the right time to regard the company as a trading investment rather than a speculative share. Profits of £2.5m this year—which seem possible—indicate a fully-taxed p/e ratio of 7 at 33p. The prospective yield is only 3.2 per cent, but the dividend will be covered almost seven times; relaxation of restraint would allow a return to the company's preferred cover of three times implying a yield of 7.1 per cent. That alone would provide a reasonable prop for the shares.

For a United Kingdom visitor to the Irish Republic one of the most striking things about economic and political debate is the preoccupation with jobs and the business of job creation. Whereas in Britain the latter is seen as a palliative which can do little to influence the overall level of unemployment, in the Irish Republic it is at the centre of policy-making. However, despite the concern about persistently high unemployment there is optimism about the country's economic prospects. This is hardly surprising, given the present impressive growth performance.

The rate of economic growth this year is confidently expected to be the highest in the EEC at an estimated 5.5 to 6 per cent. This is double the average EEC rate for 1977 and compares with virtually no growth in Britain.

The crucial question for Irish policy-makers is how to keep up this rapid expansion and in particular how to use it to provide jobs for the fast-growing labour force, while at the same time bringing standards of living into line with those in the rest of the western industrialized world.

Estimates of the Republic's jobless range from the official figure of about 110,000 (less than 10 per cent of the labour force) to as high as 160,000 (14.5 per cent). One fault of the official figures is that they do not include unemployed school leavers, whose numbers are generally believed to have reached serious proportions.

There are probably also many married women who do not register for work, but would come into the labour market if the jobs were available.

One reason for the central importance of job creation is the still vivid folk memory of mass emigration as the only alternative to unemployment. One of the greatest achievements in recent years has been the turnaround from net emigration of about half a million in the two decades 1970 to net immigration of about 12,000 a year from 1970 to 1976.

This has added to Irish self-respect but also to the potential unemployment problem. Indeed, the reason for the change is that worldwide recession has cut back on overseas employment possibilities.

In the last year there appears to have been a return to some degree of net emigration, although it is too soon to be sure of its scale or permanence.

There is a degree of optimism in the Republic of Ireland about the solution of the country's economic problems. Caroline Atkinson reports

The Irish—hard at work creating jobs

The election campaign of the six-month-old Fianna Fail government concentrated on the need for massive job creation to bring down unemployment and insisted that full employment (defined as about 4 per cent jobless) was a legitimate and practical goal for the Republic, albeit one that could not be achieved until the mid-1980s.

The new government recipe is similar to a cooked respect to that of the opposition coalition. It is to rely chiefly on the private sector to invest, to industrialize the economy and to look in particular to overseas firms to provide half the new job requirements.

In contrast to the opposition coalition, Fianna Fail also plans to boost public borrowing through tax cuts and direct job creation.

The Republic of Ireland is still in many respects, a developing country but it is trying hard to survive in one of the most advanced industrialized markets in the world—the EEC. It has only a small industrialized sector, as present employment less than a third of the workforce.

Nearly one in four Irish workers is still on the land. There is room for huge productivity improvements in the

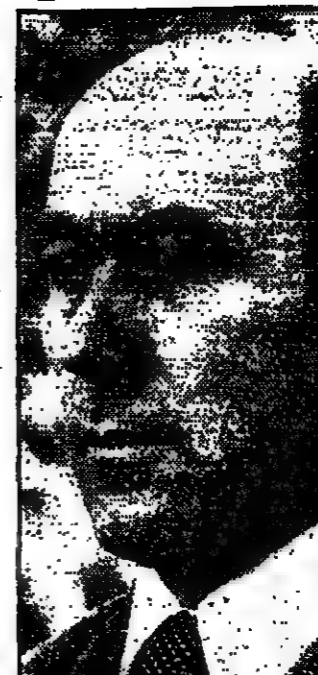
agricultural sector, which consists in the main of small-holdings using old-fashioned methods and with very low output per man.

As these gains are realized, the pool of surplus labour looking for industrial employment will be swelled markedly by those leaving the land. The high birth rate adds to the problem.

However, the Irish have been extremely successful in the business of attracting foreign investors. The recent decision of a Dutch firm Perenka to pull out of its Limerick factory after prolonged industrial disputes and a poor trading performance has only slightly shaken the confidence of the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) in its ability to import jobs.

Despite the recession factories providing about 100,000 jobs have been set up in the past five years. The target of 23,000 new jobs this year will be comfortably exceeded.

This success can be attributed to the powerful financial incentives to set up operations in the Republic, an adequate supply of labour (often unskilled) and the highly efficient and flexible operation of the Industrial Development Agency.



Professor Martin O'Donoghue, head of the new Ministry for Economic Planning and Development: a strategy for growth.

Its example, however, is now being followed by other regional development boards (for example in Wales and Northern England) as the competition for job-providing investment warms up. There is also some concern that the pulling power of the main Irish incentive—a remission of tax on export profits until 1990—will wear off as the date approaches (assuming that the EEC will allow the incentive to continue).

The original rationale for relying on foreign capital to provide so many of the new jobs needed was that there was a shortage of capital at home. The argument most commonly put forward now is that indigenous Irish industry, which was geared to a heavily protected and sheltered market, is ill-equipped to survive in the cold winds of competition from more advanced industrialized nations.

There has been an enormous shake-out in recent years, with the cold winds of competition bankrupting many Irish industries. The IDA now hopes that this is over.

As a very open economy, with more than half of output exported, the Irish Republic is dependent for its growth on the health of the rest of the world and on its ability to sell abroad.

The balance of payments is not a constraint at present, as reserves are comfortably high. However, it is the long-term constraint on development.

Optimists say that sluggish world growth need not inhibit Irish expansion. It is such a small country that its exports can rise rapidly without arousing the ire of foreign producers. To do so, however, the country's goods must preserve a competitive edge.

This has been helped by the 1976 devaluation of sterling—by which the Irish pound is pegged—and by a notable improvement in inflation, which took off in the Irish Republic in much the same way as in Britain, with 30 per cent earnings increases in the 1973-74 wage agreements.

Two years of very moderate wage settlements have brought the rate of inflation down to about 14 per cent year on year. Negotiations on the next wage round have just got under way.

The government is insisting that the tax reliefs promised in the election are conditional on a 5 per cent average settlement agreed between employers and unions. Few believe that the outcome will be much less than 7 or 8 per cent and some companies believe it will be 10 to 12 per cent.

The unions are determined to hold out for a generous settlement as their members' real incomes have risen little since 1975, while farmers' incomes have leapt by a third this year and industrial profits have recovered.

The success of the present government's strategy will depend to a large extent on the outcome of the wage round. It will also depend on the willingness of the Irish workforce to accept lower standards of living than its overseas counterparts for some years.

One of the suggestions for solving the unemployment problem which Professor Martin O'Donoghue, head of the new ministry for economic planning and development, intends to make is that some of the available rise in real wages should be devoted to job creation. The problem with simultaneously expanding employment and modernizing an economy is that new investment tends to save labour.

For this reason the Industrial Development Agency has switched some of its resources into expanding the more labour-intensive services sector and has long had a policy of encouraging more labour-intensive industry.

Arthur Reed

Will Britain's plane makers turn to America?

British Aerospace is preparing to take a decision early in the new year which will have an enormous impact on the health of this country's aircraft industry for a decade ahead. It is about the development of a new subsonic airliner.

The dilemma is the boardroom at the headquarters at Weybridge, Surrey, is not whether to proceed with such a project—such a decision has already been taken in principle—but who our partners ought to be.

Should Britain continue her collaboration with Europe, or should she sign up with the aerospace industry of the United States? It is a high-stakes game, for the decision will affect the industry for years to come.

The prize is a glittering one. Over the next 10 years or so the skies of the world will be seeking a replacement for their ageing fleets of aircraft. The big new jet engines costing as much as a whole Viscount airliner did in the past, in country can afford to go it alone. Partners are vital to share the cost of development and production and also to spread the market for the finished product.

This is where the dilemma for the British occurs. In Europe they have long-standing partners, notably the French, with whom they have collaborated since 1962 when the Concorde deal was signed. But the price is a spy relationship which has produced, at best, a technical masterpiece, but a financial disaster.

The Concorde experience is tempered, however, by the experience of British Aerospace, or rather the Hawker Siddeley Aviation constituent part of it, in making the wings for the A300 European Airbus. Hawker Siddeley entered the project in a straight-forward commercial way after the British Government had pulled out, got on well with the French and the West Germans, who are the main partners, and is now about to reap the benefits as sales of the 300-seater aircraft take off.

Looking West, British Aerospace is having what might be called an uneasy courtship with the American industry, a big

1950s when 440 Vickers Viscounts were sold. But with development costs for a new airliner at about £200m, and with just one of the big new jet engines costing as much as a whole Viscount airliner did in the past, in country can afford to go it alone. Partners are vital to share the cost of development and production and also to spread the market for the finished product.

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Looking West, British Aerospace is having what might be called an uneasy courtship with the American industry, a big

vastly skilled and highly competitive conglomeration which has so much to offer that it is almost frightening. The fear deep inside the British has always been that if they become involved with the Americans it is they who will drive the hardest bargain when the deal comes to be written, so that Britain is reduced to a nation of aviation "tin benders".

But it is in North America where about two thirds of the market for the new jet transport is to be written, so that Britain is reduced to a nation of aviation "tin benders".

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prepared to drop the X-11 came when McDonnell Douglas announced the go-ahead for its DC 5-50 series, a development of a highly successful existing airliner and too close to the X-11 for sales comfort.

While it tries to move closer to the European, British Aerospace is attempting to keep a foot in the American camp with a suggestion that a "stretched" version of the Boeing 737 airliner fuselage should be bought ready-made for the A200.

It is a proposition which has brought a highly unfavourable reaction from the French and not entirely on nationalistic grounds. They point out that buying such a large component from America at once defeats the main aim of a European project, which is to provide work for the largely empty shops of the civil aerospace industry in Europe.

British Aerospace counters by pointing out that sales in the important United States market would have a better chance if the European aircraft had a significant American content. But the argument does not appear to impress the French at present.

British Aerospace has also been talking to McDonnell Douglas, which has put up for serious discussion—although not yet as a formal proposal—a whole package of aerospace collaboration work, which on the face of it looks highly attractive for Britain.

It wants British Aerospace and the Germans to come in with it on a 160 to 180-seater advance technology medium

range (ATMR) airliner with a "super-critical" wing, digital avionics and a structure partially made of composite materials. It is a two-engine design, using either clipped fan Rolls-Royce RB211 or General Electric G86 engines.

McDonnell Douglas overcame the fear of American domination by proposing that leadership on this and other projects should rotate between the three partners. British Aerospace would have a fair measure of design work, so laying the bogey of British aircraft makers becoming "tin benders".

In the ATMR package are further proposals to market globally the HS146, the 70-seater Hawker Siddeley design which is on the shelf at present, and to do advanced development studies on a second generation super-jet airliner for 1995, with 273 seats, environmentally acceptable engines, and economics acceptable to the airlines.

The French, with whom McDonnell Douglas has an unhappy experience in trying to mount a joint airliner project based on the Dassault Mercure, are not included as main partners, but could come in as a later stage.

It is obvious that if British Aerospace should decide to throw in its lot with the Americans it will alienate the French for decades to come. But would it not be better to risk this if partnership with the Americans meant buoyant sales and a reasonable return on the money of the British taxpayer who now underwrites the British aircraft industry?

Madame Tussaud's gets under way

Madame Tussaud's must be regretting the day it ever opened talks with S. Pearson about the possibility of buying Pearson's Chessington Zoo business. For that prompted Pearson's counter of a full-scale bid for Tussaud's and in turn probably ensured that Tussaud's would lose its independence. ATV is the latest candidate with a 55p a share offer (against Pearson's 45p) that in terms of logic looks much more sensible than Pearson's idea of putting Chessington into Tussaud's to create a new leisure division.

Business Diary: Pearl and CDFC • El Gordo

The revelation of the full extent of the Crown Agents' losses and of the unaccountability of senior officers there is being followed by the more open government of at least one other lesser-known financial animal, Commonwealth Development Finance Company Limited.

Dennis Pearl, CDFC managing director, is to be interviewed by Business Diary's Rose Davies yesterday, his first interview with a national newspaper since taking office in 1973.

CDFC, like the Crown Agents, is loss-making, if on a lesser scale—£363,000 after tax in the year to March 31, £384,000 in 1976 and £1.1m the year before that. In the main this reflects provisions made against losses in the companies in which CDFC invested before the oil price increase of 1974.

The loss, however, is borne not so much by the British taxpayer as by the British shareholder at one remove. CDFC is an unlisted public company, 25 years old next year, and the shareholders are the Bank of England, about 150 British financial and industrial concerns and the central banks of Commonwealth countries.

Pearl, a former colonial civil servant, said that until recently the company had contented itself with taking minority stakes in promising companies in Commonwealth countries. By 1974, however, it had become clear that CDFC had "gone over the top" in investing in too many companies to too small an extent. When he came in there had been 24 "problem" companies out of 108, Pearl said. There were now four or five out of "less than 100".



Photograph: John Manning

Dennis Pearl of the Commonwealth Development Finance Company in London yesterday: fewer and bigger.

said, was for fewer but bigger and more diverse investments. A costly 40m Swiss franc loan (big enough to swamp any operating profit this year) is being repaid ahead of maturity. CDFC, Pearl says, is now poised to invest up to 50m a year in half a dozen or so projects. The company is ready to help a couple of British firms in Commonwealth projects and had been talking to an Indian industrial concern with European ambitions.

Lastly, CDFC's Australian subsidiary was about to acquire two related retail and financial

concerns. This new departure was meant to attract Australian equity by presenting a more even earnings record than a development finance company could be expected to show.

Today Australia—tomorrow the world?

What costs twice as much as last year, is generally discarded within a few days and is completely non-essential although no Spaniard would be without one.

It's El Gordo (the fat one), Spain's annual Christmas lottery, which as usual has been sold out long before the traditional December 22 drawing, even though the smallest share you can buy (one tenth of one number) costs more than a pound.

Business is so bad in Spain this year that about the only way to make a killing is on the lottery, or so it would seem. Every man, woman and child in the country is expected to have invested an average of more than £6 in the Fat One.

Bigger than ever, the lottery still offers not only the world's biggest total payout—nearly £152m—it also offers what are probably the most generous top prizes of any lottery anywhere—25 of them, each worth more than £1m.

A whole ticket costs a breathtaking £133, but the payoff for the biggest winners is ten thousand to one and there are nearly 254,000 other cash prizes, just in case you miss the first one. The lottery pays back a generous 70 per cent of the total take and six out of 10 players win some kind of prize, even if it is only their money back.

Last year tickets for El Gordo cost half as much as this year

(the total payout was about one third less), but the lottery continues to be Spain's biggest game of chance.

The earnings are tax-free and tickets are sold by street hawkers, or "the beaver". All Spain will stop work on Thursday to listen to the live radio and television broadcast of the drawing at the National Lottery Administration.

Wyn Davies and Reg Eccles, the latest of the stockbroking analysts to strike out and set up their own consultancy.

They are joining forces with a third Capel alumnus, Andrew Mallin, who went solo some time ago to concentrate the commodity funds he was already running. More and more broke firms go to outsiders now, rather than maintaining their own research departments.

The consultancy, Mallin, Davies and Eccles, will offer research on commodities and the first client is—Mallin's own company.

Davies and Eccles will continue to provide share research—their speciality is the international mining finance house sector—for Capel, Mallin continues to be Capel's metals consultant.

Earlier this year David Hargreaves and David Williamson left the mining side of brokers Laurence, Frost to set up their own outfit—Rayner-Harwill—and continue to carry out mining share research for Laurence, Frost.

Salomon is known to the winter sports fraternity for the special clasp it makes to hold skis

on to boots. It makes one out of every three clasps sold throughout the world.

Rossignol is known for its skis. It produces one out of every three skis sold throughout the world.

Both these French firms have decided to branch out. Salomon is shortly to put on trial its revolutionary ski boot which lacks up binding.

Rossignol, after studying an American survey that showed 80 per cent of skiers also play tennis, is to manufacture tennis rackets.

Winter sports are big business in France and the last few years have seen a tremendous growth in the "hundred day" tourist industry. This year French ski resorts will be trying to fill 650,000 beds for the season.

Three million Frenchmen, women and children plan to visit the snow-covered hills this year for a slippery winter break and the signs are that they will be joined by 350,000 more foreigners.

Working for electronics companies—or indeed for the United States Navy—can offer insights into unexpected quarters, according to Carl Herold, quoted in the American monthly *Scouting*. On behalf of his company Herold spent a week in an American nuclear submarine patrolling the Pacific coast. He reported: "Applied electronics technology has made possible a tie-in between the periscope and the sonar system, making it possible to use the vessel that permits the crew to share in high-resolution surveillance of selected bathing beaches." A sort of Unofficial Secrets Act, eh?

THE SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

POLICY	INVESTMENT SPREAD			
The Company's aim is to give stockholders long-term growth in both income and capital.		%		%
	U.K.	57.2		
	U.S.A.	29.5	Equities	90.4
	Far East	8.9	Fixed	9.6
	Other countries	4.4		

	1977	1976
31 October		
TOTAL ASSETS	£113.7m	£92.4m
NET ASSETS per stock unit	123.1p	102.2p
GROSS INCOME	£4.4m	£3.8m
DIVIDEND per stock unit	2.56p	2.05p

1976 figures have been adjusted to reflect the merger with The Second Scottish Investment Trust Company Limited.

- The increase of 25% in the dividend reflects the healthy revenue position in both the UK and USA.
- Overseas stock markets were dull but the valuation of our investments benefited from the large rise in the UK market.
- Copies of the Annual Report are available from the Secretary, 6 Albion Place, Edinburgh EH2 4NL.

MARKET REPORTS

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

[illegible]

Commodities

[illegible]

Wall Street

New York, Dec. 12 (S.A.)—Steel prices fell steadily today, closing lower over a broad range as the dollar continued its recent sharp decline against the mark.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 73.37 points to 807.55.

Over 1,000 issues showed losses, with only about 385 higher.

Volume totalled 21,150,000 shares, up from 20,270,000 shares on the previous day.

The dollar was lower against foreign currencies and by late in the day was off sharply. European currencies were up against the dollar from supporting the dollar.

Brokers say the stock market was nervous over planned steel production cuts by the International Iron and Steel Institute, a long-standing concern. Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel planned to raise steel production by 100,000 tons.

Bethlehem Steel said it would raise rolled steel production 100,000 tons.

Swiss Steel did not comment on the Bethlehem announcement.

US metals' down

[illegible]

UK metal stocks

Stocks in London: Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver) were: Copper down 250 to 638,875; tin up 335 to 2,940; lead up 600 to 65,100; zinc up 375 to 64,475; silver down 70,000 to 19,430,000 troy ounces.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	71%
Barclays Bank	74%
Combinated Crdts	74%
First London Secs	71%
C. Hoare & Co	77%
Lloyds Bank	77%
London Mercantile	77%
Midland Bank	63%
Nat Westminster	73%
Rossminster Acc's	74%
Shendley Trust	91%
TSB	74%
Williams and Glyn's	74%

[illegible]

Foreign Exchang

The dollar's decline against major European currencies was sharply extended on foreign exchanges yesterday. Sterling fell to \$1.92 from \$1.94, having been steady two cents higher at one stage. This is the pound's best level since April last year. The effective exchange rate of the dollar against the pound closed in sharp November 2.

With a number of banks having already started their books ahead of the year end, the dollar's fall has threatened producing exaggerated movements in rates. Even so, dealers reported some sizeable commercial buying orders for the pound, and the Bank of England was not intervening in the market, dealers said.

Commercials also rose sharply against New York.

Gold unchanged at \$160.375 a troy ounce.

Discount market

Identifiable factors suggested that there ought to have been a pretty flat situation in the money markets yesterday. However, money must have been tight because of the pipeline of requests for the purchase of Treasury bills for the authorities found it necessary to give help on a moderate scale. This was channelled via the purchase of a moderate number of Treasury bills from the market, and the lending of a small sum to one or two houses overnight at M.L.R. (per cent).

In a thin market, rates were about 6 1/2 per cent, and after these had fallen to 6 1/2 per cent, they cheapened a little further after lunch and 5 1/2 per cent. The situation of the authorities, some houses were able to raise off at 5 per cent, and others at 6 per cent, rather sparsely, so that the closing

Spot Position of Sterling

	Market rates (day's rate)	Market rates (yesterday)
New York	December 19	December 18
Montreal	\$1.5645-474	\$1.5700-474
Amsterdam	\$2.0310-19	\$2.0450-540
Brussels	1.23-2321	1.23-2321
London	1.0510-11 1/16	1.0510-11 1/16
Frankfurt	2.940-245 1/2	2.95-245 1/2
Lisbon	3.90-75 1/2	3.90-75 1/2
Madrid	351.00-24 1/2	351.00-24 1/2
Mexico	1.0210-10	1.0210-10
Oso	0.91-39 1/2	0.91-39 1/2
Paris	8.38-41 1/2	8.38-41 1/2
Stockholm	4.66-46 1/2	4.66-46 1/2
Tokyo	446-446 1/2	450-450 1/2
Zurich	28.50-40 1/2	28.50-40 1/2
Kiushu	3.78-35 1/2	3.78-35 1/2

Effective exchange rate changes to December 17, was 94.1 percent, up 8.4 per cent

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 7%			
(Last changed 28.11.77)			
Clearing Banks Rate Rate 6-7%			
Discount Mk Lomax			
Overnight	High 6%	Low 5%	
Week Fixed 5-6%			
Treasury Bills (Disc)			
Bidding		Selling	
3 months	6 1/2%	2 months	6 1/2%
3 months	6 1/2%	3 months	6 1/2%
Prime Bank Bills (Disc) Trade Disc			
2 months	6 1/2-6 3/4%	3 months	7%
3 months	6 1/2-6 3/4%	4 months	7 1/4%

Forward Levels

[illegible]

Gold

Gold Used: am. \$150.75 per ounce. per.
\$100.10.-
Krugers (per coin): non-resident, \$100.-
1674-1989: resident, \$100.-1989: (1984-1989)
Securities (per): non-resident, \$50.00 (1984-1989)

2746; 7-11-61; 33-7-61-2-50-

Malaysia exchange

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 19.—Malaysia's proposed multi-commodity exchange is expected to begin operations with palm oil trading by the end of 1978 or the beginning of 1979, Lew Sip Hon, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries, said. The exchange will eventually trade in rubber, tin, and perhaps amber and pepper, as well as palm oil, he added.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

Long gilts ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings End, Dec 30. \S Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 11

§ Forward hearings are permitted on two previous days

Drummond's
Freedom
Suitings ...ask your tailor!

MAN IN WOOL
Pure new wool

BRITISH FUNDS			COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN			LOCAL AUTHORITIES			FOREIGN STOCKS			DOLLAR STOCKS			BANKS AND DISCOUNT			BREWERS AND DISTILLERS			TEA			MISCELLANEOUS			THE TIMES SHARE INDICES			SHIPPING			MINES			WHEAT			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP			GOATS			HORSES			CATTLE			PORK			BEEF			LAMB			MUTTON			SHEEP</		
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The first sale at Bond Street is on Tuesday 16th January 1978 and the first sale at Belgrave on Thursday 5th January 1978. The galleries will be closed from Friday 23rd December to Tuesday 27th December (inclusive) and will re-open on Wednesday 28th December.

Scotland: John Robertson, 19 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AH. Telephone: (031) 226 5418
West Country: Sotheby Baines, 3 Warren Road, Torquay TQ2 5TG. Telephone: (0803) 25852
Midlands and the North: in association with Henry Spence & Sons, 20 The Square, Reckford, Notts. DN22 6DJ. Telephone: (0777) 706 767

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 Warehouse open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Monday to Saturday.
 Plenty of free parking for
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 acceptable.

Chaudron Reserve Brut
 Chaudron is a superb quality
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Beaujolais Nouveau 1977.
 A most attractive light young red
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Great Wapping Wine Co.
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QUALITY WINES

Buy your Christmas wines at wholesale prices direct from one of the leading importers. Come and select from our range of 90 different wines, and take away the greatest value in wines today.

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French Red ..	\$9.95
Champagne Brut ..	\$37.50
St. Raphael Chateau	\$52.22
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Per doz, incl. V.A.T.	

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SPECIAL CARPET OFFER

Hard wearing Meraklon
broadloom. 12ft. wide and
stain resistant. 3 plain shades,
25-28 sq. yd. Off carpeting
from \$1.50 yd.

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loom, 12ft. wide and extra
resilient, 8 plain shades,
at 2s. 6d. per yd. (other carpeting

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INDEPENDENT PLAIN
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SMOKED SALMON SPECIALISTS
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CALL AT OUR SHOP, 261 KINGS ROAD, S.W.3. (Tel. 352 6512 or 351 0243).

BROADWOOD BAY GRAND. Excellent condition, recently re-conditioned £1,450.—Tel: 0963 506666 Now!

unobtainable. Tickets for sporting events, Theatre Inc. Telephone 61-939 5363.

HOCKEY PRINT, Rue du Seino, 7th out of a limited edition of 150: \$280—Dr. Henry. 876 3642/785 9272.

WEDGEWOOD Curtains, Place 1969-1974 Income, \$185. Col- lected 739 435.

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GOOD KING WENSELAS looked out for a good piano and came to us. Our new and reconditioned pianos including Rosendorfer, Bluthner and Steinway at gift prices. Catalogued 1729. Phone 441-1411. Pls. 01-800-6907.

HARPSICHORD French double. £5,000 c.n.p. - Abingdon 251-31.

PIAGER WATER and mineral / diamond ring for quick private sale. Very good price. - Tel: 581 5135.

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don wishes to buy complete contents of modern flat. Contact Mr. Williams, 247, 7108 day. **WHO ARE the best tailors in London?** Try Pope & Bradley, 35 Saville Street, London. W.1. 01-453 6866.

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MARKSON PIANOS sell, hire, buy and recond. pianos; 100 new and second-hand uprights and grands available. Our normal prices are cheaper than most others' sale prices. 8 Chester Ct., Albany St., N.W. 1 (01-935 8662) and 26738 Ardway Pl., S.E. 18 (01-864 4517).

KNIGHT'S Upright Piano, almost new condition, perfect touch and tone. Musicians' Instruments, Arlington. 01-286 7006.

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TODAY; TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 at 11 a.m.
Russian and Greek Icons. Catalogue (9 plates) 50p.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
Miscellaneous Printed Books including A S. J. Colegate's 'Journals: The Properties of Field-Mars: The Earl Hodge of Bemersey, K.T., G.C.B., O.M.' and others. Catalogue 35p.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
Fine Modern Sporting Guns and Antique Arms. Properties of A. S. G. Douglas, C.A.I. (late Colonel Charles Brockthorpe and others. Catalogue (25 plates, including 1 in colour) £1.15.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 11 a.m.
English and Continental Furniture and Objects of The Properties of The Dowager Lady Noble, Col. William Stirling and others. Catalogue 35p.

Christie's Review of the Season 1977
This is now available in bookshops, or from
Christie's, price £12.50 post paid. All applications
John Herbert, Public Relations Director.

Christie's 1978 Season
Christie's 1978 Season will begin on Tuesday, Jan
10 with the sale of Titania's Palace.
Catalogue prices are all post paid.
All sales subject to the conditions printed in
catalogues.

South Kensington
85 Old Brompton Road
London SW7 3JS Tel: 01-581 223

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 at 10.30 a.m.
English and Continental Glass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 at 2 p.m.
Old and Modern Jewellery

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 at 2 p.m.
Gramophone Records

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 10:30 a.m.
Furniture, Carpets and Objects of Art

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 2 p.m.
English and Continental Pictures

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 at 2 p.m.
European Ceramics and Works of Art

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 at 2 p.m.
Costumes, Textiles, Embroidery and Fans

Edinburgh Office: Michael Clayton,
5 Wemyss Place, Edinburgh EH3 6DE.
Tel. (031) 225 4757.

York Office: Nicholas Brooksbank,
46 Boonin, York YO3 7EZ.
Tel. (0904) 37411.

North-West Office: Henry Bowring,
Whetstone, Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria.
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West Midlands Office: Michael Thompson,
Stanley Hall, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.
Tel. Bridgnorth 61891.

West Country Office: Richard Le Pelet,
Monmouth Lodge, Yeaton, Templecombe, Somerset.

Irish Office: Desmond Fitz-Gerald.
The Knight of Glen, Glen Castle, Glen, Co. Limerick.
Tel. Glen 44.
49 Pembroke Road, Dublin 7.
Tel. Dublin 589281.

FOR SALE	FOR SALE
<p>ACNER'S WONDERLAND of Christmas presents in Dorton, 64 New Bond Street, where Mr. Wagner does all the best deals on cameras, Calculators, Hi Fi and lots more. Call in today, or phone 01-629 1711.</p> <p>THE CROSS to early 70s: mobile, £10,000—Tel. 01-472</p>	<p>HARRODS PRAM. Big, elegant, comfortable, with 4 wheels. £100. Call 01-538 6067.</p> <p>SEE EXPERIENCED COM FREIGHT. Agard 45, Ree-in—523 1164 RM 27.</p> <p>AKA! 4x4s to rent. 01-538 6067.</p>

WANTED

ROYAL ASCOT—Box room
Royal Meeting plus
Only good position con-
t. 629 0771.

THE GOD KINGS, and the
by James F. Lee, urg-
ted. 01-937 3522.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING This year
eat your Christmas pudding with
cream or fruit or grape or
whichever you like. It's all right.
makers and' with any accom-
paniments. Strainaway.
Bunsenburner. The following
one they provide that the instru-
ment in question should come
from the manufacturer's stock
than the recently returned
original piano specialist Mrs. Gordon
on 07-228 4000.

roadcasting

0 pm The welcome return of Porridge finds Fletcher and Lennie greatly concerned about Christmas spirits.

C1

5 pm One of television's best-kept secrets is who won the Mastermind trophy when the final was staged at Guildhall in London. Tonight:

C1 we can find out.

8.30 pm Raymond Baxter makes his debut on "the other side" with Great British Achievements, a sort of yesterday's world. Six major events, from the Bannister mile to the Severn Bridge. Worth waiting up for.—I.R.R.

TV

C1
pm, News. 1.00, Pebbie
1.45-2.00, How Do You
3.20, Bobol y Cwm. 3.55,
School. 4.20, Astronut
Jacknory. 4.40, Animal
5.05, Joan Craven. 5.10,
Beethoven Read Little
News. 5.55, Nationwide.
Christmas with Nation-
wide: The Skateboarding
Final.
The Oregon Trail.
Ferridge.
Mastermind Jubilee
Final.
News.
Play: The Thin End of
the Weige, by Sean
McCarthy.
Tonight.
Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 am, Play School.

7.00 News Headliner.

7.05 The Camera and the Song.

7.30 Newsday.

8.05 Book Programme's Christmas Quiz.

8.35 Black Christmas, by Michael Aibonitane.

9.25 The Water Margin.

10.10 The Man Alive Report: Our schools.

11.00 News.

11.10 The Old Grey Whistle Song.

11.40-11.45 Marius Goring reads How to Paint a Perfect Christmas, by ...

Thames

11.00 am, Animated Classics, A Christmas Carol 11.50, The Snowman 12.00, The World from White Noise 12.10 am, Hickory House (r) 12.30-4.0, Riky Old Age (r) 4.00, News, 4.30, Help 1.55, Crown Court, 2.00, After Noon, 2.25, The Stare Look Down (r) 3.20, 4.30, The Soldier's Song, 4.45, vams, 4.50, Get-It-Together, 4.42, Magic, 5.15, Sportscenter, 5.45, News, 6.00, Thames at 6.05, 6.35, Crossroads, 6.45, 7.00, Bless This House (r), 7.30, Oh No It's Swainy (r), 7.40, 8.00, Charlie's Angels, 9.00, Pub Entertainer of the Year, Grand Final, 10.00, 10.30, The Gathering, Return of the Clansmen, 11.00, 11.30, The Christmas Album

ATV
11.05 am, Puzzle Party.
1pm. 11.55. Parade.
Thames. 1.20 pm. A TV
1.30, Thames. 5.15, Me-
reanau Vennue. 5.45.
6.00, ATV Today. 6.35,
roads. 7.30, Survival. 7.30
am, Thames.

Southern:
11.05 am, Strel Away.
Nobody's House.
Thames. 1.20 pm, Sou-
News. 1.30, Crown Court.
Houseparty. 2.25, Thames.
Cartoon. 5.20, Crossroads.
News. 6.00, Day by Day.
Thames. 6.15 am, Sou-
News. 12.25. Weather;
logue.

Granada

varieties (BBC 1):
 WALSLEY 3.00-5.30, 7.00-7.45, Trans-
 mitters closed down, 8.50-9.30, Walsley
 8.50, Headway 7.10-7.45, 8.50-9.30,
 9.40-10.15, BBC4, 11.00-11.15, 11.45-12.15,
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 1.30-1.45, 2.00-2.15, 2.30-2.45, 3.00-3.15,
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 12.15-12.30, 12.45-1.00, 1.15-1.30, 1.45-

Yorkshire

11.00 am. Carpool. 11.05. The Big
Game. 11.30. News. 12.00.
Thames. 1.20 pm. Calendar News.
1.30. The Big Game. 2.00. News.
2.30. 3.00. Thames. 5.15. Star
Line. 5.30. News. 6.00. Calendar.
6.35. Thames. 7.00. The Squid-
gey. 7.30. 12.15 pm. Thames.

Grampian

11.05 am. Southern. 12.00.
Thames. 1.20 pm. Grampian News.
1.30. The Big Game. 2.00. News.
2.30. 3.00. Thames. 5.15. Star
Line. 5.30. News. 6.00. Calendar.
6.35. Thames. 7.00. Survival.
7.30. Thames. 12.15 pm. Radio-
clon.

Radio

1
6.00 am. News. 6.15. Berry. 7
7.02. Noel Edmonds. 9.00.
Simon Bates. 11.31. Paul Bar-
ry. 12.00. News. 12.15. Radio-
clon.

12.15 Christmas Pie.
(K) repeat.

Westward

11.05 AM. 40 min. Southern. 12.00.
The Great Western Railway.
Hounslow. 12.05. The Great Western Railway.
Reading. 12.15. The Great Western Railway.
Basingstoke. 12.25. The Great Western Railway.
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Tyne Tees

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Thames. 11.55. AM. Southern. 12.00.

Vict+ 9.00. News. 9.05.
Mozart+ 10.00. Atarsh's Music
Box 10.20. Academy of the
BBC: Mooran, Warren, Hayden+
10.30. News. 10.35. News.
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9.40. News. 9.45. News.
9

11:00 am, Cartoon, 11:30
Christmas, Two-Week
Aesop's Fables, 12:00, Th
1:20 pm, This Is Your I
1:30, Thames, 5:10, Th
Your Right, 5:15, Cross
5:45, News, 6:00, Gro
Reports, 6:30, Bann
12:20 pm, The Practice,
12:20 am, Thames.

Channel

1:18 pm, Channel News, 1:2
Thames, 5:10, University
1:30, 5:45, News, 6:00,
6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00,
Treasure Hunt, 7:30, Thames.
12:20 pm, The Practice,
News.

News, 7:10, Today, 7:35,
the Hour, 8:00, News,
Today, 8:45, Yesterday in
Hameat, 9:00, News, 9:05,
day Call, 01-580 4411: M
Memories with Steve
10:00, News, 10:05, M

[illegible]

D.E.T. 10.00 Beat the Record.
 2.30, Robin Richmond. 9.02,
 Among Your Souvenirs.† 9.02,
 Radio Orchestra.† 10.02,
 12.30-12.35 am, News.
 † Stereo.

2.00 am, Radio 1. 7.02, Terry
 Wogan.† 8.27, Racing Bulletin.
 † 9.02, Pete Murray.†
 (10.30, Waggoners' Walk.)
 11.30, Jimmy Young.† 1.50 pm,
 Sports Desk. 2.02, Labour Party
 political broadcast. 2.07, David
 Hamilton.† 4.30, Waggoners'
 Walk. 4.45, Sports Desk. 4.47,
 Sports Desk.† 6.45, Sports Desk.
 7.02, Radio 1. 8.02, Soccer
 Special. 9.30, Radio 1. 10.02,
 Sports Desk. 10.03, Hubert
 Gregg. 10.02, Ruth Cubbin.
 11.00-12.05 am, News.

3.55 am, Weather. 7.00, News.
 7.05, J. S. Bach, W. F. Bach, J.
 C. Bach. 8.00, News. 8.05, Lyadov,
 Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich.

Handel, Bruch. 1.05. The Arts
Worldwide. 1.15. Concert, part
2. Handel, Elgar. 2.10. Aeolian
String Quartet, part 1. Baydn,
Mozart. 3.00. Reading. 3.30.
Quartet, part 2. Bachdov.
4.00. A. A. Light Music.
4.55. Haydn's recital.
Bohm, J. C. F. Fischer. 5.15.
Jazz Today. 5.45. Hymns
Bound. 6.15. The
Fourth Bond. 6.30. Natn
at Work. 7.00. Helping
with Spelling.
7.30. Liszt concert, part 1.†
8.15. Playing "Solentona"
Gordic. 8.40. Elephant's
Foot. 8.10. Liszt, part 2. 9.25.
Sound-Drama before Midland,
discussion with Dr. M. S.
Russell. 10.10. Liszt
on star, tobia, rampura. 10.30.
Piano recital: Baydn and
Senthov. 11.25-11.30. News.

6.15 am, News. 6.17, Farming.
6.35, up to the Hour. 7.00.

Europe. 1.00. 1.30. The Archers. 1.45. Women's Hour. Listen with Mother. 3.00. The Pickwick Papers. 3.15. News. 4.05. Carols for Christmas. 4.35. Story of a Provincial Lady. 5.00. Reports. 5.40. Carols All the World. 5.55. Weather. 6.00. News. 6.30. The Big Way. 7.00. News. 7.45. Archers. 7.50. Time for us. 7.50. Radio 3. 9.25. Kappa. 9.30. Windsor. 10.00. News. 10.30. Christmas discussion. 11.00. A Book at a time: 'Annals of the Peasants'. 11.15. The Financial Times. 11.30. Today in Payment. 11.45. News. 12.00. am. Inshore forecast.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGES 12 and 19

DEATHS

BARRETT—On 17th December, 1977, peacefully in hospital, after a long illness, Mrs. Margaret Barrett, nee Jones, aged 90 years, of 15, The Grays, Grays, Essex, died. She was the widow of the late Mr. John Barrett, who died in 1965. She is survived by her son, Mr. John Barrett, and her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Barrett. A funeral service will be held at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, December 22nd, at St. John's Church, Grays. Burial in the churchyard. Flowers by family only.

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